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28 March 1985

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REGIONAL AFFAIRS

SERIOUS DEFICIENCIES OF 'PENINSULA SHIELD' FORCES NOTED

Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 28 Jan 85 pp 22-23

[Text] Six countries on the Persian Gulf want to join forces to protect themselves. But their tactical forces show only one thing--weakness.

For three weeks tanks were rolling over dusty tracks, soldiers were treading through desert sands, cannons were aiming at targets, "Mirage" fighter planes were dropping bombs.

In October 1983, almost any kind of weapon that could be found on the Persian Gulf was moved to the dunes of Abu Dhabi, one of the seven states of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), a year later to the desert of Saudi Arabia: 3,600 soldiers from the six states of the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council--Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the UAE went ahead twice to practice the defense of the Persian Gulf. Following the first exercise, a spokesman for the Gulf Council said that the desert fighters had shown that they "are in a position to use the most modern weapons effectively."

Far from the truth--the very first "Peninsula Shield" (protective shield of the peninsula), the name of the first Gulf Council war games, turned into a disaster: According to the London TIMES, even when using an extraordinary power of imagination, this event cannot be called a major military maneuver.

Later on 'Abdallah Farad al-Ghanin admitted: "The military units will have to get used to one another, supply concepts will have to be coordinated and military information systems will have to be harmonized." An honest statement by the Gulf general expressing the desires for improvement: practically everything went wrong--in spite of 2 years of preparation.

When the six Gulf states formed the Gulf council on 25 May 1981, the primary concern was the protection of this part of the region from foreign aggression; 36.6 billion tons of crude oil--almost 40 percent of the known oil reserves of the world--are located in this area.

The U.S. Rapid Deployment Force had already been in existence for some time, Moscow had demonstrated in Afghanistan that the Eastern superpower will continue its power politics and that it will not shrink from using military force to achieve its goal in the Gulf area. And NATO debated the issue how its oil supplies from this region could be safeguarded through the use of arms.

This worldwide military interest caused a great deal of unease among the Gulf states. The event which was the decisive factor for their cooperation, however, was the 1980 eruption of the war between the Islamic fanatics in Tehran and the dictatorship in Baghdad. It endangers the delicate power base of the feudal princes.

Although they had become the most influential factor on the global economic scene, the oil sheikhdoms had remained weak militarily and they were unable to defend themselves. Only Saudi Arabia had maintained an armed force for about a decade. It was equipped with modern weapons, something that presented a headache for Israeli military planners--but that was all.

For a long time, however, Oman, "the watchman of the Gulf" and "guard of the Strait of Hormuz," had no more than 8,000 soldiers, a few ancient planes, two armored dhows--the traditional sailboats on the Gulf. Conditions in the neighboring states were equally pathetic.

Anyway, no dangers were on the horizon. Iraq, which was militarily strong and oriented toward Moscow was kept in check by Iran, even during the Shah's times, whereas an equally strong Syria had been kept busy since the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty with Israel and also with Lebanon.

A steady flow of petrodollars was a better means of dealing with internal enemies than military power would have been. Generous state subsidies guaranteed internal peace. There seemed to be no need for expensive arms.

At the beginning of 1979, when the Shah regime in Tehran collapsed and the revolutionary prophet Khomeyni tried to spread his Islamic fundamentalism with missionary zeal, governments in the Gulf region went into shock. It became clear that their new need for protection could only be satisfied through a joint effort.

Meanwhile, the Gulf Council states have at their disposal a total of about 140,000 soldiers. Almost 850 tanks are rolling under their flags and approximately 400 fighter planes are displaying their markings. And their marines have available dozens of modern warships.

The undisputed leading power of the Gulf sextet is Saudi Arabia, which furnishes approximately one-third of the military potential. A Saudi general is also charged with transforming the Gulf soldiers into an effective unit.

But the members of the Gulf Council cannot even agree on the principles of a joint security policy. The sultan of Oman is the only one who favors an open alliance with the United States. Even the Saudis object: Israel, the Arab's main enemy, has too much influence in Washington. Kuwait, a neighbor of Iraq--which for many years has been loyal to Moscow--would like to maintain an equal distance to both superpowers--something that Baghdad wants now too. Only both superpowers, according to general opinion, can guarantee the security on the Gulf.

Various views on the security policy are not the only hindrance to a joint Gulf defense. There are also military snags:

Six different varieties of tanks are in the arsenals of the Gulf Council states. They all need different ammunition and spare parts. Almost a dozen different planes are flown. Most of the time they can only be maintained, refueled and supplied with ammunition at their home base.

The main problem of the Gulf states, however, is the lack of personnel. The area consists of 2.6 million square kilometers and has approximately 15 million inhabitants, but there is a shortage of young men. Mercenaries, on-loan units, guest soldiers complement the armed forces of the allied countries.

In Saudi Arabia two complete Pakistani brigades are under the royal supreme command. U.S. pilots fly Saudi fighter planes. Fifty-one thousand five hundred soldiers of the kingdom are aided by approximately 10,000 fighting men bought from other countries.

Three thousand seven hundred foreigners serve in the Oman Army, which in the meantime has reached a strength of 21,500 men. Britains are in charge of the troops, many Pakistanis are occupying lower officers' ranks. In the United Arab Emirates approximately one-third of the soldiers are from other countries.

Kuwait's military recruiters are luring mercenaries by promising citizenship of the rich oil country, which otherwise is unattainable for non-Kuwaitis. The problem of foreign infiltration is so serious that English is supposed to become the leading language of the Gulf troops--the mother tongue of many military men and irreplaceable specialist in the region.

Nevertheless, it is doubtful whether mercenaries who have been recruited at high pay will be willing to fight for their sheiks. Even today they are only tolerated rather than respected and--as is the case in Saudi Arabia--there is open discrimination against them.

As a consequence, the plan was dropped to deploy the 10,000 to 15,000-men Gulf troops at two bases, one in the north and the other one in the south of the region. The Gulf princes were hesitant to place their expensive soldiers--the loyalty of whom they could at best depend upon on their own territory--far away from their native residences. Because in spite of all the dangers from the outside, the Gulf rulers suspect that the most serious threats come from within and in opposition to their antiquated regime.

At the end of November the Gulf Council agreed on a very small common denominator: a joint supreme command in Saudi Arabia with troop units stationed at their home bases. As a consequence, for the time being there will only be peninsula maneuvers, even if their value is questionable.

At the beginning of October 1984, thousands of Gulf soldiers were again engaged in maneuvers. "Peninsula Shield 2" was carried out in Saudi Arabia. 'Abdallah Ya'qub Bisharah, general secretary of the Gulf Council, praised the operation: "The Armed Forces are ready and they are good." The opposite was the case.

The maneuver went "completely unplanned and chaotic," was the criticism of a knowledgeable diplomat. "The performance of the Gulf troops during the most recent maneuver" only "demonstrated" their "weakness," was the critical remark of the British SUNDAY TIMES concerning the desert war.

Parachutists landed miles from the area where they were supposed to be deployed; they did not reach the training area or got there much too late. Artillery units did not even realize until later, when the maneuver was evaluated, that they were shooting heavily and effectively but most of the time it was in the wrong direction--their own hinterland.

Accordingly, at least the medical personnel experienced warlike conditions: The military exercise caused serious casualties--the number of the dead remained a secret.

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ALGERIA

SECOND FIVE-YEAR PLAN EMPHASIZES CURBING POPULATION GROWTH

Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 12 Feb 85 p 4

[Text] The main directives of the second five-year plan deal with curbing demographic growth.

The Algerian population presently numbers 22.6 million including one million emigrants. It numbered some 9 million in 1962; it will reach 34.5 million in the year 2000--in barely 15 years. It is its very rapid rate of increase and its distribution, more so than the number itself, which presents a problem. To confront it and control it is a vital challenge of our development policy, although it is necessary in order to accept this challenge to know well the characteristics of the present situation and to understand the answers which were and will be provided through national planning.

The number of people residing in Algeria was estimated at 21.5 million at the beginning of this five-year plan. Youth is its main characteristic: 57.4 percent of our population is less than 20 years old, whereas older people (60 and over) represent only 5.9 percent of the total. The annual number of births goes on increasing every year, whereas the number of deaths is becoming stabilized.

Table 1: Natural Movement of the Population Residing in Algeria
Source: ONS [National Statistics Office] A Few 1984 Figures on Algeria

| Year | Live Births | Deaths | Natural Increase |
|------|-------------|---------|------------------|
| 1981 | 784,153 | 182,714 | 601,439 |
| 1982 | 800,895 | 172,903 | 627,992 |
| 1983 | 829,804 | 173,409 | 656,395 |

Demographic Variables

Our country is among those having a very strong demographic growth rate (an average of 3.2 percent).

This very high rate is due essentially to the birth rate which exceeds 40 percent. In comparison, the 1982 birth rate of other countries was as follows: Tunisia, 34 percent; Egypt, 35 percent; USA, 16 percent; USSR, 19 percent; and West European countries, less than 15 percent.

All of the leading fecundity indicators are very high, although noticeably lower for the past 10 years.

| | 1970 | 1981 |
|----------------------------|-------|-------|
| Total number of children | 7.9 | 6.4 |
| Gross rate of reproduction | 9.8 | 3.4 |
| Net rate of reproduction | 2.8 | 2.7 |
| Overall fecundity rate | 240.0 | 186.3 |

The total number of children per woman in Tunisia is 4.9; in Morocco, 5.8; and in Europe, less than 2.

Life expectancy (that is to say, the average number of years members of a generation remain alive) has become much higher over the past 10 years, mostly due to the drop in infant mortality; it went from 53.4 years in 1976 to 61.6 years in 1981.

Spatial Distribution

The spatial distribution of the population residing in Algeria is unbalanced. This unbalance is the outcome of a long process of anarchic and outwardly oriented colonial use of space.

The concentration of activities, and consequently of the population, on the coast during the colonial era worsened due to a massive rural exodus and a rapid integration after the independence. The major portion of the population is concentrated on the coastal area: 70 percent of the population is located on 4 percent of the national territory. The High Plateaux have 24 percent of the total population over 10 percent of the territory.

The urban population has been growing at a rapid rate. It went from 31 percent in 1966 to 41 percent in 1977 and 45 percent currently. The four largest cities alone have 16 percent of the total population.

The active population (that is to say, those who work or are looking for work) was estimated at 3,680,000 in 1981, 256,000 being women.

The number of agricultural workers, although still very large, has dropped substantially, but should become stabilized.

| | 1981 | 1982 | 1983 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Agriculture | 963 | 960 | 960 |
| Industry | 458 | 469 | 475 |
| BTP [Construction, Public Works] | 504 | 552 | 609 |
| Transportation | 147 | 151 | 151 |
| Commerce and services | 506 | 541 | 568 |
| Administration | 705 | 752 | 797 |
| Total | 3,283 | 3,425 | 3,567 |

The emigrant population numbers some one million people. The relatively large percentage of young people (45 percent are younger than 25) expresses the growing family characteristic of emigration. The reintegration of this emigrant community remains an important goal of our population policy.

A Few Middle- and Long-Term Projections

Population projections based on the most likely assumptions to be gathered from the various variables were formulated in order to allow the national development policy to set the main demographic restraints that had to be faced.

In the year 2000, the Algerian population will total 34.5 million inhabitants, the active population, 8.3 million and the school-age population, 9 million as compared for the latter to 5.8 million currently. During the second five-year plan alone, the residing population will increase by 3,801,000, the school-age population by 818,000 and the active population by 914,000 of which 221,000 will be women.

These few figures make it possible to measure the efforts which the country must make, especially in the sectors of job creation and education, due to demographic growth alone. It is the reason why the development plans, especially the first and second five-year plans, have defined a true demographic policy.

There are two sections to the demographic policy, namely, control of demographic growth and redistribution of the population.

Public authorities have focused a lot of attention on demographic problems as proved by the amount and quality of demographic data available since 1966.

Control of demographic growth, however, did not appear as an autonomous goal until the first five-year plan.

The rise in social needs coupled with our development policy made it necessary to define appropriate measures of demographic growth control in order to prevent demographic growth from canceling efforts geared to economic growth.

The first five-year plan noted that "the active program of reduced birth rate has become an indispensable channel for improving the effectiveness of building our economy and for intending to meet satisfactorily and lastingly the social needs of the population." This goal was to be achieved through birth control and accompanied with measures for the social promotion of women (better education and participation in the working world) and development of a health policy for the protection of mothers and children.

The second five-year plan offered more thorough directives. While remaining coherent with the program of demographic growth control adopted by the government, it defined in more details the main sectors of intervention for that area:

Programs oriented toward the development of reception bureaux and benefits;

measures of public awareness, information and education directed in priority to the concerned and less informed segments of the population; and

study and research concerning the implications of the dynamics of demographic growth on social needs.

A basic factor of demographic growth control policy, taken up again in all the political texts or directives on that subject, is the assurance that, in that sector, individual freedom will be respected. Another factor is the need for free consent and actual use by the people.

Programs Already Undertaken

The first programs involving birth control were undertaken in a strictly medical context.

The first birth control center was inaugurated in 1967; later on, birth control programs were gradually developed as part of the mother and child protection programs.

At the beginning of 1984, there were 444 birth control centers scattered throughout the governorates. It was possible to estimate at approximately 10 percent of the child-bearing population the number of women practicing birth control.

This rate is small when compared to that of countries like Tunisia where it reaches 41 percent or Egypt, 24 percent. Furthermore, it

relates to women who already have many children (4 or 5) and who live in urban areas.

In addition to the number of birth control centers and their better organization, several of the measures implemented will make birth control more acceptable in the near future.

Longer school attendance for girls and greater access to the job market will result in later marriages and will offer women new areas of social and economic interests.

The drop in infant mortality, based on better care for children, i.e., urging families to take care of all medical procedures (vaccinations and medical visits), will promote birth control by reducing the need for many children.

The extension of social security benefits to some categories of workers who were previously excluded--independent farmers--will also reduce the need for many children by ensuring suitable retirement benefits.

This reduction of the demographic growth, expected as early as the 1985-1989 plan, will not prevent a strong increase of the overall population for many generations.

The current "demographic growth" is such that even if, as of now, families were to limit the number of children to two, the population would double before becoming stabilized (on the other hand, if the growth rate were to remain constant at 3 percent, the population would be multiplied by 20 in 100 years).

It is the reason why another measure is used to control demographic growth, namely, a more rational distribution of the population throughout the national territory.

Several measures already included in previous plans will contribute to that goal. Let us mention the establishment of the civil service; the new administrative districting into 48 governorates which will allow a more extensive intervention in the more depressed regions; the pursuit of economic and social policies in order to curb rural exodus; and, with a long-term view toward territorial development, the redistribution of the population as part of the "High Plateaux" Project.

6857

CSO: 4519/101

EGYPT

ROLE OF PARTIES IN DOMESTIC POLITICAL LIFE ASSESSED

London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 23-29 Jan 85 pp 24-27

[Article by Wahid 'Abd-al-Majid and 'Abd-al-Latif al Minawi: "They Are Truly Election Parties!"]

[Text] Suddenly, Egypt was shaking all over. Movement, controversy and debate were everywhere. Everyone was talking politics, debating and comparing the parties that entered the election campaign. Without exception, all parties were competing to establish their presence and power in every Egyptian village and quarter and each candidate carried enough hopes and promises to his constituents to last for the next 4 years. They all stressed that they were definitely returning to their electoral districts and villages to live the problems of their people and constituents.

Also suddenly, the movement subsided. The parties vanished and the candidates disappeared. People looked for them right and left, but the parties, whose conferences had filled the streets, were no where to be found. They avoided the limelight save for a few meetings and indicators inside their small, sparsely-populated villages. These two contrasting scenes occurred in a matter of a few months. The first scene was during the elections while the second one came after the elections.

Can we truly say that the Egyptian parties are nothing but election parties?

In democratic countries that follow the multi-party system, parties are found everywhere. They move as one single bloc or one huge web branched out in all directions over the country and in every aspect of daily life. Their activities are marked by a constancy not tied to any season: a season of activity and a season of hibernation.

AL-MAJALLAH watched the movements of the Egyptian parties during the post-election phase and tried to compare them to the election phase. It took its observations to the leaders and thinkers of these parties to give them a chance to rebut, justify or blame others for what is going on.

Party activity in Egypt is not yet 9 years old. It started when the late president, Anwar al-Sadat, announced in November 1976, the transformation of the political platforms, within the framework of the Socialist Union, into political parties which President al-Sadat outlined in three parties expressing the key political orientations: the left, right and center.

Today, Egypt has six active legal parties, in addition to other parties under formation. Nonetheless, the ordinary man in the street is hardly aware of them.

"The party situation in Egypt has a special nature due to the recency of the return of the multi-party experience," says Salah 'Isa, noted leftist writer and NPUG Party member. Eng Ibrahim Shukri, leader of the Social Labor Party [SLP] (4 appointed parliamentary seats), shares his view that the sluggishness of party activity following the elections is a natural state, but disagrees with him over the explanation of the reasons, saying: "The period between two electoral rounds is a time for consolidating the party's presence at the popular level in order to build the party itself and prepare for the next elections as well."

Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Social Liberal Party, which received the lowest percentage of votes of any party in the recent parliamentary elections, rejects the charge directed at his party that it is nothing but an election party: "We are not an election party, as attested to by the fact that the key objective of the meetings and periodic encounters we hold at the various party levels is to bolster the party bases in the governorates in general. It is not designed for the elections which are over 4 years away."

Dr Wahid Ra'fat, leader of the Wafd Party, the main opposition party in parliament (59 members), defends his party: "For 30 years we were deprived of our presence in the political arena. Therefore, we are still unable to communicate with the people in the regions. All parties have to have bases in every neighborhood, every street and every village in order to have a real presence."

A Time To Get Wet

But, does this in any way mean that the parties must calm down and rest after the elections?

Salah 'Isa replies: "The period between elections is a key part of the parties' role because, during this period, the parties' function is to formulate a strong public opinion representing a pressuring force that influences the policy makers, be they inside or outside parliament. This can usually be achieved through diverse party activities, including newspapers and conferences."

Dr. Wahid Ra'fat believes that the parties have not fulfilled their role entirely, but have started to do so: "He who wants to swim must go into the water" and "we are in the stage of getting wet."

Ibrahim Shukri is proud of his party's third conference, held last month. He thinks it is an important step in buttressing the party's presence in the Egyptian street: "We are focussing on the consolidation of democratic practice in Egypt and the SLP has set a splendid example of such a practice by convening the third general conference of our party." The Labor Party leader goes on with his pride in defense of his party against the charge of being absent from the street and being nothing but an election party: "What happened in the third general conference will reverberate in every corner of Egypt(!) through our party's newspaper and when the governorate representatives get down to their grass-root bases to project the picture."

They disagree among themselves: Are they absent from the street or are they there? Some stress their sweeping popularity which others cannot see! Some admit to that with the justification that they are in the process of looking for the proper means for solving this problem.

"We are still working hard to return to the old set-up that distinguished the Wafd in the forties when committees were spread out in every village and every street," says Dr Wahid Ra'fat, Wafd Party deputy leader.

The Wafd Is An Election Party

Historically, the Wafd was an election party, which may still be true today. However, its organizational ability is confined to groups with their own special vitality in educated circles. It did not have any specific organizational structures historically," says Salah 'Isa, who added: "The party most distinguished for its political decisions is the Grouping Party, a fact recognized by all, our adversaries more than our supporters. As for the other parties, their organizational capability is very meagre. We are the most organized, followed by the SLP. As for the Liberal [Party], its capabilities are very meagre."

Mustafa Murad rebuts this intimation against his party: "About 4 months ago we embarked upon a plan to reorganize the party. We formed a committee comprised of party currents in all the governorates for this purpose. We have periodic meetings preceded by meetings held by these leaderships in the governorates and have almost collected all the various proposals for formulating a program for bolstering the party's presence all over the country."

The only matter on which the opposition may have agreed is the consensus that a wing from within the National Party provides the main reason for preventing the parties from engaging in activities that are evident and tangible to the man in the street.

"Her Majesty's opposition in Great Britain is recognized and receives aid from the British government so that it may fulfill its role. We in Egypt do not get any help, as an opposition party, from the government." This is what the deputy leader of the main opposition party in parliament said.

"There is a powerful wing within the ruling National Party actually seeking to prevent the Egyptian [opposition] from engaging in any activity unless it is under the motto, "talk under the dome," to wit, no activity outside the [parameters] designated by ruling party circles and legitimate channels and limited to very few forms of political action. Parties are forbidden to hold conferences outside their headquarters, although the constitution guarantees that. Requests to this effect are denied, however, the party action is restricted to the newspapers and activity within the headquarters only." This argument, or charge, is presented by Salah 'Isa, who adds: "This limits party symposium attendance to party members. I would like to observe that the Grouping Party has only a total of 20 headquarters nationwide."

Salah 'Isa goes on: "I think the National Party is making a great mistake by reducing democracy to a mere election campaign. The perils of democracy are far fewer than the perils of a denied freedom."

We Want Headquarters

Ibrahim Shukri and Mustafa Murad hold the same view that the National Party, or a wing thereof, is standing between them and their presence and influence in the political arena. They demand their right to the headquarters the National Party inherited from the Arab Egypt's Party, formerly ruling, that in turn inherited them from the Socialist Union (the only political organization previously in existence). They emphasize that a large number of these headquarters are closed and yet are denied to the opposition parties.

The Grouping Party member brings up an important issue when he wonders about the meaning of establishing party committees in some important mass concentrations of a special nature, such as universities and factories. "No matter what the fears may be, this ban should be removed for it does not mean the absence of party activities and party members inside these mass concentrations."

Ibrahim Shukri goes on with his defense of his party: "We are not an election party. All these pressures and obstacles notwithstanding, party activity has not ceased at all, not before and not after the elections. Our popular conferences are still going on and we intend to increase them gradually because they are an important channel for direct contact with the people in their places. These conferences include all the governorates and are not restricted to their capitals or cultural centers, but extend to villages and hamlets where the SLP real grass-root support, which backed it in the last elections despite intense pressures, can be found."

Ibrahim Shukri adds: "In short, we are now getting ready, following the third conference, to consolidate our presence and our bases in every corner of Egypt."

Everyone brags about his party and defends it. Salah 'Isa says: "Regarding the Grouping Party, it is considered the party most aware of the fact that democracy is not talk under the dome. That is why we enter very rigorous battles to get to the people in their places, although we did not get to the present parliament for known reasons related to our opinion of the way the election campaign was run. We do not believe that political action stops at the boundaries of parliamentary function."

"We are parties that have the ability, and at the very least the desire by some, to be active and be universally present among the people. But the problem remains a problem of capabilities," says Salah 'Isa, adding, "our organization's secretariat has a plan for covering the centers and the district capitals nationwide with headquarters in a short period of time."

New Parties--For What?

Dr Wahid Ra'fat resumes his talk about the absence of party influence in the Egyptian street by saying: "This may also be due to a main reason that some established parties are still looking for their old mainstay. In other words, they existed in fact before the revolution and have returned to action following the re-establishment of the multi-party system. They are now in the phase of looking for their old mainstays, and this goes for the SLP that goes back in origin to the Young Egypt Party and the Wafd Party. There is another problem facing the new parties, namely their attempt to create new mainstays. This is shared by the Grouping and Liberal Parties and even the ruling National Party."

Dr Ra'fat puts forth another issue concerning the degree to which the multi-party concept must be set free. Some believe that setting the multi-party concept free may provide a proper remedy for this state of political absence the Egyptian street is experiencing. He disagrees in his viewpoint with many others for he believes that Egypt already has enough parties to express the main tendencies in Egyptian society. "Too many parties can shake the regime, as is the case in Israel today. Therefore, it is not in Egypt's interest to open wide the door to the formation of parties. Granted, Egyptian reality professes the existence of clear religious currents that cannot be overlooked, and there are more radical groups from the Grouping Party. These currents must be given an outlet for their activities and the Wafd Party succeeded in doing just that with the religious current when the Brotherhood joined it and was represented in parliament."

The phenomenon of the disappearance of party activity following the parliamentary elections is largely true, but it is as important to explain it as to record it.

Salah 'Isa says: "In any country that has parties espousing the concept of parliamentary democracy, their aim must be to get to parliament because it is the basis of the established parties' struggle, for there they can realize the idea of change so long as it is by democratic means. Therefore, stepped-up party activity during elections is thus justified."

Ibrahim Shukri concludes his talk by refuting the charge against his party or the other Egyptian parties: "I object to the term that Egypt's parties are election parties because the main objective of any party in any country that follows the multi-party system is to run for elections and win as many parliamentary seats as possible. This is not an accusation, but rather is at the core of the party's duties in general."

Nonetheless, the remark still stands. In spite of the various assurances by party leaders that their parties are present in the street and visible and influential, the justifications they cited notwithstanding, the man in the street in Egypt still fails to notice the effect of these parties, thus getting the idea that the political game is confined to the surface between those interested in politics and those who monopolize it in total indifference to the people. It still looks like these parties have been created to make themselves felt and noticed only during election time, after which "nothing can be seen or heard" from them. This phenomenon deserves consideration and study to find a remedy for it.

12502

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EGYPT

PROSPECTS FOR PRESS FREEDOM EXPLORED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 1 Jan 85 p 7

[Article by Salamah Ahmad Salamah: "About the Future of the Press in Egypt"]

[Text] In general the Egyptian press is currently undergoing a period of significant revival for both those who produce the press and those who read it. This revival is recognized by those who yearn for more liberty and the removal of restrictions, just as it is recognized by those who are afraid of it and warn about the results of eliminating regulations. This freedom is being exercised by those who support it as well as those who oppose it, just as the rulers and ruled alike enjoy its negative or positive fruits.

For the first time in a long time there are a number of different approaches to judging the facts. This multiplicity has not turned into intellectual and political chaos, nor at the same time has it become a justification for the charge of treason, for exile or for persecution. National and party newspapers, no matter what their orientation, share in presenting a picture of the press and its role. We do not say it is complete, but in any case it reflects an Egyptian reality which is rapidly developing along rational, prudent lines. The picture at times is not devoid of inadequacies here and exaggerations there, but the positive side outweighs the negative aspects in the final analysis of the long harvest of contradictions and crises which have governed Egyptian life to a great extent and which have consequently affected the status of the Egyptian press to an even greater extent.

Generally it may be said that the Egyptian press in practice has swung back and forth over the last 30 years between total subordination to the state in the various phases it has passed through and the great deal of freedom it has enjoyed only during the fourth republic under Mubarak's presidency. There are ongoing efforts to make this freedom more profound, give it a firm foundation, establish bases for it and expand the margin for movement within it. In a similar manner, the wide gap is closing between the committed press, or what is called the "national press," and the opposition press, or what is called the "party press." The day may come when there is agreement on national political lines, with no conflict regarding them. There will be no glaring differences which the reader perceives between these two kinds of newspapers. The only differences will be in opinion, not in the handling of the news or

the type of news, and not in the kind of news which is published or how true or false it is.

So far the essential difference between the committed press and the opposition press in Egypt is that the former has ignored some especially sensitive news items. It does not publish them. If it did, it would wait a long time before adding any official clarification. The latter publishes only the news which is critical and hostile, and it does not feel the need to wait for or seek clarifications and justifications. On the contrary, it hastens without remorse to publish whatever occurs to it. The former, in other words the committed press, presents the bright side of the moon. The latter, the opposition press, presents the dark side. Both kinds of press follow nearly the same line of thinking. The point of departure is the same, but the end results seem contradictory, because in both cases when one adopts views, it is usually at the expense of truth.

In the modern press there is no absolute truth or total right or wrong. Absolute truths are found only in history, poetry or religion. However, in the press they appear in parts or small elements revealing themselves day after day and moment after moment, in stages which may go on for some time. Thus the matter may continue for a time until the whole truth is revealed and its dimensions are clearly defined. Meanwhile the committee national press waits and holds its breath until the truth comes out. The party press rushes to make predictions and draw conclusions, without paying much attention to the division between that which enters the realm of rumor and that which enters the realm of truth. In this way the two approaches complement each other. Thus it is not enough that the party press remain merely a valve for venting news and opinions of the opposition. Nor is it enough that the national press remain merely a mirror reflecting the official attitude, publishing optimistic, inspiring news. On the contrary, a combination of the two could correct the perspective of the press and news media so that it would approach accuracy and reliability. It would restore confidence to the press--national and party, committed and opposition alike. It would create a healthy atmosphere in which the reliability of the press would be a value in itself, to enlighten people and make them aware of the enormity of the problems they face. Criticism would become a means, not an end, to correct policies, reveal errors and deviations and maintain the unity of the national and social goal. A generation of journalists and writers would grow up, presenting the news in its entirety and the truth, unprejudiced to the extent possible, rather than presenting an opinion which tolerates right and wrong.

A fact we must mention here is that the Egyptian press has already made strides on this path, ahead of the current kinds of Arab newspapers published in the Arab world or elsewhere. The opinion of others in the Egyptian press finds wide scope for publication, whether it is objective or not. It is oriented toward dissecting and criticizing Egyptian conditions rather than Arab affairs and conditions. At the same time we find that the opposite is true in the Arab press which is oriented toward criticizing Egyptian positions and conditions and publishing true and false news about them rather than

daring to touch on Arab conditions, from near or far. As much as the Arab press accommodates Egyptian writers ready to analyze and criticize Egyptian conditions, it does not accommodate Egyptian or Arab writers ready to analyze and criticize Arab conditions. A kind of unique Egyptian obligation has arisen regarding Arab questions and conditions, and it is not offset by a similar obligation regarding Egyptian questions and conditions. Egyptian writers with a party tint are committed to it in particular, and they are not committed to it with regard to Egypt. There is a high degree of press freedom in Egypt unparalleled in the Arab press.

Yet the Egyptian press faces conditions which are marked to a great extent by mutual contradictions which must be solved in the near future if the Egyptian press is to continue to develop for the better. Among these contradictions are:

1. The party press in Egypt is weak due to its weak financial circumstances and the fears of those managing it that there will be reverberations in freedom of the press. This weakness is clearly reflected in its tendency toward exaggerations which take a hostile attitude toward everything published in the national press, although most of those managing party press affairs maintain a working relationship with the national press, and so far they have not wanted this relationship to be broken. As a result, the national press does not welcome those writers who represent a glaring, opposition, party orientation. The opposition party press refrains from publishing anything which might represent an orientation supporting or exonerating the government. It is a situation requiring some kind of settlement. Also, the national press must be more representative of the various orientations within balanced, clearly-defined political limits. This is what is actually occurring to one degree or another.
2. The contagion of great confusion in the Arab press between news and opinion is being transmitted rapidly to the Egyptian press, namely to the party press. It has become impossible for us to read pure news in the party press which does not contain some measures of interpretation, insinuation or assumption. It is a method which detracts from the reader's ability to judge and understand and helps confuse him.
3. The national press institutions have achieved technical progress by importing the latest printers and equipment. This has not been accompanied by a similar advancement in the professional level of those working in the press. Egyptian newspaper offices are now seeing new generations of journalists who lack the language, journalistic and editorial skills which distinguished previous generations. With huge financial enticements from Arab oil newspapers, outstanding elements in journalism are quickly going to work for them, either within Egyptian press institutions which pay no attention to divided professional loyalty, or outside these institutions and with their consent.
4. Channels of information between the authorities and the press are clogged.

Officials and ministers in various positions refrain from presenting their opinion or the truth about what is happening regarding some problem. This makes the flow of information slow, weak and unimpressive. This applies to both the national and party press and even world news sources. Often, concealing news when rumors are circulating about it has worse consequences than broadcasting an important news item, even if the most delicate considerations prohibit its broadcast.

The answer to questions about the future of the press in Egypt will remain in the hands of both the national and party press. With regard to the former, it will depend on how capable the national press is in making room for diversity and pluralism and how courageous it is in dealing with problems and errors and benefitting from technological progress in creating a new generation of journalists who avoid the errors of previous generations. With regard to the latter, the future of the press will depend on how calmly or recklessly the party press performs and on the degree of harmony required in the context of the overall view of present social, political and economic conditions and in the context of the degree of maturity and democratic stability in Egypt. The future of the press will remain hostage to the solution of the mutual contradictions we mentioned. This will take place only in light of a comprehensive review of the press law in Egypt.

7811

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EGYPT

BRIEFS

REINSTATEMENT OF BANNED IMAMS--AL-SHA'B has learned that the banned imams have been permitted to return to their mosques to preach starting this coming Friday, God willing, having stopped preaching in their mosques as of the September 1981 resolutions issued by former President Anwar al-Sadat. Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk will give the Friday sermon at his mosque in the Qubbah gardens this coming Friday. AL-SHA'B also learned that the Ministry of Religious Trusts is leaning toward allowing the imams to return to their mosques. AL-SHA'B newspaper has supported the cause of the banned imams for a period of five consecutive weeks. Our colleague Mamduh Qinnawi, Socialist Labor Party delegate, submitted a request to the minister of religious trusts for the return of the banned imams to their mosques. [By Ahmad al-Suyufi] [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 Feb 85 p 1]

RETURN OF IMAMS DELAYED--AL-SHA'B has learned that some government departments intervened to keep Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk and the rest of the 'ulama' from their mosques shortly before their return to the mosques, a decision which had been made last week. Last Friday, several thousand worshipers came to the 'Ayn al-Hayat mosque in Dayr al-Malak to hear Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid Kishk but they were surprised by his absence. Thousands of worshipers assembled in the mosque to ask about his absence. After prayer, the worshipers played tapes of Shaykh Kishk inside the mosque; then they sent several telegrams to the president of the republic and other officials requesting the return of Shaykh Kishk and the rest of the imams. AL-SHA'B met with the general director of mosques at the Ministry of Religious Trusts, Shaykh Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahid Ahmad, who stated: "The ministry wants all the brother 'ulama' and imams to participate in raising the standard of propagating God's religion in a wise and exemplary way, without negligence or immoderation. The mosques will receive all the imams, God willing, so that they can undertake their duties with regard to [spreading] the Word soon--as God permits. The ministry would welcome those 'ulama' to undertake the work of building a righteous society to mold the Muslim community. [Text] [Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 3 Mar 85 p 1]

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MOROCCO

SAADI'S VIEWS ON MINING, PETROLEUM RESOURCES

Casablanca LA VIE ECONOMIQUE in French 1 Feb 85 pp 4, 6, 8, 9

[Interview with Minister of Energy and Mines Moussa Saadi; date and place not specified]

[Text] A year ago, 1984 began very auspiciously, in particular with regard to oil research. The ONAREP [National Agency for Petroleum Research and Production] had concentrated all its resources in the Meskala area, where the first four exploratory drillings had proved successful. At the time, Moussa Saadi, minister of energy and mines, had discussed all the expectations triggered by these initial results. However, as the good technician that he is, being a geologist and having always worked in close cooperation with mining companies, he had expressed the traditional reservations knowing from numerous examples that, in that particular field, nothing is sure which has not been confirmed. "One swallow does not make a summer." This aphorism came up several times in the course of our meeting.

As a matter of fact, it should be remembered that petroleum research is only beginning whereas mining is one of the basic factors of the national economy, with phosphates in the lead. The latter, however, is a separate sector. We therefore asked Moussa Saadi to evaluate the year just ended with regard, first of all, to the other mining resources.

The minister told us: "To be sure, phosphates obscure the importance of the other extractions. As a matter of fact, Morocco is one of the main Arab and African producers of minerals. It is Africa's main lead producer; the largest or second largest silver producer; and the world's third or fourth largest barite producer. It has the only big coal mine of the Arab and North African world.

Its production of manganese, copper, fluorite and other minerals is substantial. Also, what one of your colleagues wrote notwithstanding, mines are not on the decline. On the contrary since, although two were closed, the Bou Azzar cobalt mine in particular, because it was exhausted, and the Kettara pyrrhotine mine, more mines were opened than closed.

Thus, the Bleida copper mine which was opened more than compensated for Bou Azzer in the same region; we opened several silver mines such as Imiter, which is very large, Zgounder and Roc Blanc, north of Marrakech. Extensive exploitation of barite was started in the Figuig province, in Jbel Zelmou."

[Question] Mr Minister could you outline briefly mining activities in 1984?

[Answer] They were marked in particular by stepping up the exploration for strategic and precious metals, gold and silver in particular. I would like to remind you that we reopened the Tiout gold mine in Ouarzazate Province. This campaign is proving to be very successful, especially for silver. It is being conducted jointly by the BRPM [Mineral Prospecting and Investment Office] and the services of the ministry, our geological services in particular.

A Priority: Sulphur

We also have an important priority: Searching for sulphur. We began by organizing a seminar with foreign specialists to assess the situation.

As a matter of fact, sulphur is currently a weak point of our economy, since we must import one million ton annually to cover the needs of our industry, especially in the production of phosphoric acid. As it stands, Morocco has become the world's leading exporter of phosphoric acid and its need for sulphur is going to grow with the opening of Morocco-Phosphorus III and IV, in Jorf-Lasfar. Our sulphur requirements will reach 3.1 million tons in 1987, peaking at 6 million tons.

[Question] That is why OCP [Moroccan Phosphates Office] concluded an agreement with the Pharoun group which controls the international sulphur trade. Did not Morocco have, however, a source of supply from the Kettara pyrites mines?

[Answer] The Kettara mine was closed a few years ago. The mine was exhausted after 15 years of operation, and the ore was very lean. Besides, it was the only mine of its kind exploited in the world. We are, however, very aware of the importance of sulphur and we drafted a comprehensive sulphur prospecting plan which also deals with its recovery from the smelting works and refineries and the subsequent processing of bituminous shale.

We therefore expanded the exploration for substances rich in sulphur, especially pyrites. A program was drawn by the Directorate of Geology of the Ministry of Mines and a specialized French organization, the Geological and Mining Research Bureau, within the framework of a technical cooperation agreement. This cooperation yielded excellent results since the first exploratory drilling, set according to geophysical data, led to the discovery of a very promising pyrites deposit which, in addition, contains other valuable metals such as lead, zinc, copper, gold and silver.

Exploratory drilling is currently under way to determine the size of the deposit. It has already reached the 200-meter level, 120 meters of which runs through solid ore. This is an exceptionally rich seam.

[Question] Where is this deposit located?

[Answer] In the N'Fis valley, 25 kilometers southwest of Marrakech, near the Lalla Takerkoust dam, in an area which, on the surface, gave no clues as to the presence of such a deposit. The success of this first exploration perfectly illustrates the excellence of the research method used, i.e., first the magnetic method, later verified through gravimetry, and then the electrical method.

When we asked Moussa Saadi about the prospects which this interesting discovery opened, he answered that confirmation drillings were under way and that nothing could be determined before their completion.

[Answer] This, however, does not prevent us from increasing our efforts and we have begun a search for raw sulphur. There could be a deposit in the country. As a matter of fact, we have large deposits of gypsum, that is to say calcium sulfate. It so happens that nature itself proceeds to the extraction of sulphur and, consequently, that it can be found in its natural state, that is to say, pure. There were some indications that it could be found in the Rif. As you can see, we are looking into all the possibilities that could solve Morocco's sulphur problem.

[Question] What about the other areas of mining research?

[Answer] I will not conceal the fact that we were stopped by budget limitations. We nonetheless continued our research. The same is true for 1985: Our efforts will be directed to substances of a strategic nature, such as sulphur and precious metals, as well as quarry materials to replace those we are currently importing, especially construction materials, such as marble which Morocco could eventually export.

[Question] What do you mean by quarry materials?

[Answer] I am talking about ceramic clay, glass sand and all the products that go into the manufacturing of insecticides, talcums, paints, etc. Such industrial rocks account for a growing turnover.

Energy: 1984, a Year of Consolidation

[Question] Mr Minister, could you summarize the results obtained in 1984 in the field of energy and the 1985 prospects?

[Answer] Nineteen eighty-four was for us a year of consolidation of the gains from previous years. We postponed a few projects for budgetary reasons and we took advantage of this to study some of them more thoroughly, in particular the Timadhdit shale plant the engineering of which had been made by a Soviet organization. As you know, it is a large 1000 MW shale oil burning plant in four parts.

[Question] Precisely; last year you mentioned the opening of new prospects thanks to the so called "fluidized" beds which makes it possible to reduce substantially the size of the shale oil burning plant.

[Answer] To be sure, the plant under consideration requires enormous investments; there are also environmental problems. Furthermore, in a region with very little water, it requires large quantities of the same, needed for shale oil extraction. That is why we used the 1984 respite to study another alternative based on the recent fluidized bed technology which makes it possible to use plants with lower output.

It will also be possible to set up a series of 25 to 30 MW plants, which are easier to build, located at Timahdit, Tarfaya, Taroundant, Tangier and Goulimine, in various areas with lesser investments, environmental, water or other problems. I must add that this system does not exclude the former. We must study the extent to which building small regional plants will be easier.

[Question] You have mentioned the extraction of shale oil. Where do we stand?

[Answer] With regard to the production of shale oil in 1984, we started a pilot plant using the national T3 process jointly with the ONAREP and World Bank financing. This unit is being currently cold tested, which is an appropriate term since tests are being carried out under 50 centimeters of snow. It involves testing the whole mechanical process without firing the furnace. We will convert to hot testing in the weeks to come. It will be a world's premiere. There are, to be sure, extraction plants using other processes in the USA, China and elsewhere, but this one will be the first in this part of the world.

In addition, Shell completed the first phase of its studies of the large shale oil deposit in Tarfaya. These studies, which cost \$20 million, were entirely financed by Shell. They determined that the open pit mining of the deposit could be carried out under optimal profit-earning conditions, close to the ocean, in a region with no environmental problems.

Shell is now going to tackle the second phase of the study aimed at building a pilot unit. The cost of these studies is assessed at \$15 million. At the completion of this phase, the pilot processing plant will be built on the basis of the fluidized bed system, the first in the world.

The cost of this project is estimated at \$200 million. Due to the particular conditions offered by the Tarfaya region, this operation will enable Shell to test its process less expensively. Furthermore, Shell is financing the whole operation. If successful, we will shift to industrial production with an output of 50,000 barrels a day.

[Question] How many tons annually do 50,000 daily barrels represent?

[Answer] Approximately 2.5 million tons per year, that is to say, half of the country's current consumption.

[Question] Will it be possible to use the ashes from the burning of the shale?

[Answer] We are thinking of using them for the manufacturing of cement, as a road lining surface and even for crop rotation purposes like in Esthonia

(USSR). The Chinese have perfected a method of making bricks through self-combustion. As a matter of fact, this requires lesser quantities for their baking and the Chinese thus obtain many products from rather lean shales.

An Asset: Coal

[Question] What about coal?

[Answer] Coal is one of our assets. We beat our production records in 1984 with 820,000 tons. Coal of Morocco (CDM) is studying, with the financial support of the World Bank, ways for raising this production to 1 million tons annually and is looking for other deposits in the region. With the opening of a new site, we feel that our production will increase by another one million tons.

I would like to mention incidentally that the Jerada coal is not a bad coal as some people would lead you to believe. To be sure, it cannot be coked and is therefore unsuitable for iron smelting. It is, however, a very good fuel. Anthracite is very appreciated, particularly in Europe, for home use; it burns a long time without smoking; furthermore, it is more expensive than coal. The British, who are masters on the subject, say that it should not be called coal but anthracite.

Another advantage is the fact that most of the world's anthracite mines have been exhausted. Therefore we can sell everything we want and we consequently export anthracite from Jerada to England and other European countries.

[Question] There were indications of coal in various regions. Have they been confirmed?

[Answer] Surveys made by the BRPM in some of the country's regions have unfortunately not yielded encouraging results. For the time being, the only valuable basin is that of Jerada, where potential deposits are possible.

[Question] Mr Minister, last year you mentioned the promising prospects offered by the Meskala deposit of gas condensate?

[Answer] I can tell you that in that sector, 1984 was a dry year for oil research in the Meskala because after exploratory drillings, all of them successful, such as MKL 101, 102, 103 and 104, subsequent drilling undertaken in 1984, such as MKL 105, 106, 107 and 108, did not yield good results.

However, late in the year we began exploratory drilling in Zelten, which yielded positive results; we are currently testing the possibilities. We had concentrated all our resources in that area in 1983-1984, at the expense of the other regions; therefore in 1985 we will diversify our exploratory drilling.

Thus the Mawadda rig offered by Kuwait to ONAREP was set up in the Hauts Plateaux area to drill in the Tendrara region. Another drilling will begin near Guercif very soon. There will be two drillings in the Essaouira region.

With our partner ESSO-Exploration, we will begin drilling in the Boudenib region, which will be the first drilling carried out on land by a foreign partner. We are also preparing to drill in the Doukkala as well as the Pre-Rif, the latter drilled by AMOCO under the terms of the Asilah land permit, in addition to the one called for in the Sidi Kacem region as part of an agreement signed between ONAREP and the Moroccan Petroleum Company (SCP).

We are also negotiating with an American company for the purpose of resuming exploration under the Eastern Rif permit, dropped by Elf Aquitaine, in the Akou region, north of Taza. More drilling is scheduled in the Hauts Plateaux as part of a more recent agreement with another American company, Princeton Geophysics.

As you can see, although as far as research was concerned 1984 was a dry year, on the other hand, negotiations were conducted with several petroleum companies and very important contracts were concluded with ESSO in Boudenib, AMOCO in Asilah and in the Tan-Tan region and the Canadian company, North South, for the Essouira offshore permit. We are negotiating with the latter for the Doukkala land permit, etc.

We also signed an agreement protocol with our Libyan partners as part of the bilateral cooperation called for by the Arab-African Union Treaty, for the creation of a mixed drilling company. Even Japan is interested in prospecting in Morocco, following the presentation made last year in Tokyo and which raised a great deal of interest. The Japanese companies will soon be in touch. This interest on the part of foreign companies is the aftermath of the presentations by our officials, which ONAREP made in London, Houston and Calgary. Thus, prospecting will soon be carried out in all the promising areas.

I must also add that we have prepared a new hydrocarbon code which will soon be submitted to the governmental authorities and to Parliament, giving substantial incentives to our partners. While waiting for its promulgation, the recent agreements were approved by decree in order to give our partners specific incentives regardless of the provisions of the former code dating back to 1958.

Loans For Nuclear Projects

[Question] Is a speeding up of the nuclear power plant being considered?

[Answer] I would like first of all to call your attention to the fact that the Council of Ministers decided at the end of 1984 to set up a National Energy Center for Nuclear Sciences and Technology (CNESTEN). It is a kind of Moroccan AEC with scientific, technical and economic assignments. It will coordinate everything relating to nuclear research and the peaceful use of this energy, especially for electric power, agriculture, medicine, etc. We have already begun a study with the Electrowatt Company for the choice of the CNESTEN site, south of Rabat. This center has the research reactor which Morocco acquired from General Atomic.

[Question] What about the nuclear power plant?

[Answer] The specialized French company, SOFRATOME, is carrying out studies for the choice of a site and line while ensuring the training of cadres, etc. The ONE (National Electricity Office), jointly with the CNESTEN, is coordinating this work. Such studies take time and must take into account the need to make electric power consumption compatible with the capacity of a nuclear power plant. The latter should not exceed 20 percent of the overall output.

As it stands, the increase in consumption will not be as rapid as anticipated due to the saving in energy we have achieved. Thus, the consumption of petroleum products in 1984 increased only by 1.5 percent and the consumption of electricity, which usually rises by 9 percent annually, increased only by 3.5 percent despite the drought which forced us to compensate for hydraulic power with thermal power.

Renewable Energy

Finally, with regard to renewable energy, studies and implementation are following their normal course. We completed several pilot units using biogas from animal waste, within the framework of the CDER. The INRA [National Institute of Agronomic Research], SODEA [Agricultural Development Company] and the Offices of Agricultural Development are very interested in these operations.

As for solar energy, technologies are being extensively developed and new high-performance solar cell batteries have been perfected abroad. There are already several such units in Morocco used for lighting, pumping and telecommunications.

We are studying the possibility of building a 1 MW plant with a parabolic system developed by a German company. The US AID is helping us build a pilot plant using wind energy and microhydraulic power stations. A specialized French company, Energies S A, will help us to make an inventory of a large number of favorable sites and to study them.

In conclusion, I would also like to draw your attention to the rural electrification program begun in the southern provinces, particularly in Tiznit, Goulimine, Tarfaya and Agadir as well as in Beni-Mellal Province. The first phase will bring electricity to 254 villages and we will speed up these operations during the second phase, which will involve 500 villages.

This operation will have very positive repercussions encouraging, among others, the settlement of rural populations and completely changing their living conditions. They impart an extraordinary dynamism to these regions, allowing the creation of many related activities.

Total Mastery of the Studies

The Invest 1 program was completed in 1984 with the help of US AID, involving data processing of the energy program and launching of a new program, Invest 2. It concerns advanced methods for which Morocco was chosen as pilot.

All data concerning consumption, rates and production, with all the parameters and risks in energy matters, were taken into account for dynamic rather than static processing consistent with demand, production and anticipated developments.

This pilot project proved that, between now and 1990, we will have to bear both the weight of investments and the oil bill. This is the obstacle we must overcome in order to achieve greater energy independence. Obviously such independence has a price.

The risk would be to relax the efforts because of relatively lower oil prices. This drop moreover should not last, according to the forecast, if the current easing on the international market were to last a few years; we should take this opportunity to make energy investments at the lowest possible price and be ready for future new crises.

Uranium

[Question] What about the recovery of uranium from phosphates?

[Answer] Current economic conditions lead OCP to postpone building the uranium extraction plant in Safi, following, in particular, the substantial drop in the price of that metal. This project will be carried out as soon as economic conditions will permit it, the more so as the uranium content of our phosphates is of interest and that the quality of our mineral will make it possible to recover more than 80 percent.

Homage to the World Bank

In conclusion, I would like to praise the World Bank which understood perfectly the importance of our efforts and projects and which gave us precious support without which we would have had grave difficulties in implementing our programs in oil research and oil shale developments, dam building and, lately, the development of the Jerada coal mine.

Moussa Saadi is a distinguished engineer and, as we can see, he handled his interview with precision, clarity and realism with no pessimistic or optimistic digressions. To be sure, the mining industry and research give to those who practice them a solid dose of philosophy. It sometimes happens that the foremost hopes bring in disappointment, although the opposite is also true and a discovery can upset the whole thing in one fell swoop.

Let us therefore remember that in this beginning of 1985, the outlook for oil research is, more than ever, interesting due to the increase in exploratory drillings; the immediate goal is the discovery of sulphur, which accounts for close to half of the cost of producing phosphoric acid and, obviously, the harnessing of all energy sources. However, a serious problem remains which will become acute before the end of the century, that of water. On that subject, Moussa Saadi made it a point to praise His Majesty King Hassan II who, with great foresight, intends to take up this new challenge as he has already done for other sectors such as energy. The minister of energy and mines will have a role to play in that sector, for the problems of water and energy are linked.

"Power plants need water in order to operate and energy is needed, especially for pumping and desalinization, to solve the water problem," concluded Moussa Saadi.

6857

CSO: 4519/100

KUWAIT

FOREIGN AID POLICY, PRIORITIES EXAMINED

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Jan 85 p 3

[Article by Muhammad al-Barjas: "AL-QABAS Publishes Kuwait's Broad Monetary Aid Policy; Goal of Assistance Is To Serve Kuwait's Foreign Policy; Priority Given to Cooperation Council Countries and Arab Countries"]

[Text] The Standing Committee on Financial Assistance to Foreign Institutions and Organizations met Sunday at the Ministry of Finance. The meeting was described by sources close to the committee as decisive. General policy of the committee was discussed in detail in light of recent economic developments and was modified accordingly.

As we know, the committee is headed by the undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance and is composed of representatives of the Ministries of Health, Education, Awqaf, Foreign Affairs and Finance and the Kuwaiti Development Fund.

Some of the most important functions of this committee are:

1. To propose general principles regarding recommended financial assistance to various institutions and organizations abroad, particularly universities, institutes and other educational or research institutions and to submit such proposals to the cabinet for possible adoption.
2. To follow up implementation of broad state policy in this regard in keeping with priorities set by the cabinet for such assistance to guarantee that there is no duplication in awarding assistance nor conflicts among the steps taken by the government agencies concerned to respond to requests for financial aid.
3. To study requests for financial aid forwarded by the cabinet and the government agencies concerned on a regular basis and submit a report on such requests, along with the appropriate recommendations, for the cabinet to study for possible adoption.
4. To prepare an annual report for the cabinet describing the committee's activities of the past year and evaluating assistance on which recommendations had been forwarded to the prime minister's office.

AL-QABAS has obtained a copy of the new amended general policy on such assistance, which is as follows:

Out of a realization on the part of Kuwait of the international role it must play to realize its foreign policy on the Arab, humanitarian and international levels, and realizing that it must allocate its financial resources in such a way as to benefit the countries which are its sisters and friends and to help develop their resources;

In view of the fact that various state agencies receive a large number of different types of requests for aid and not being specialized in this sphere cannot make a decision on them, and wishing to name a specific agency to study these requests so that such assistance can be allocated in keeping with the goals of Kuwait's foreign policy and to guarantee that all the necessary information and studies are available to make a decision on each request:

The cabinet issued Resolution No 7 in session No 48/82, held on 17 October 1982, and Resolution No 12 in session No 52/82, held on 14 November 1982, for the purpose of forming a standing committee to study requests for financial assistance to institutes and other educational and research institutions abroad. On the basis of these resolutions, the minister of finance and of planning issued Resolution No 48/82 on 9 December 1982 forming the Standing Committee on Financial Assistance to Scientific Organizations Abroad to be headed by the undersecretary in the Ministry of Planning with a delegate from each of the following agencies as members: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Planning, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs, the University of Kuwait and the Higher Council of Arts and Literature. The General Administration for Artistic Cooperation in the Ministry of Planning would serve as the secretariat of the committee. On 20 May 1984, the cabinet issued resolution No 18 in session No 23/84 transferring the authority for the work of the committee from the Ministry of Planning to the Ministry of Finance, and Ministerial Resolution No 36 of 1984 was issued by the ministers of oil and of finance reorganizing the committee under the chairmanship of the undersecretary in the Ministry of Finance and a representative from each of the following ministries as members: Foreign Affairs, Finance, Education, Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and Health. Article II of this resolution specified that the committee should propose general policy regarding financial assistance to institutions and organizations abroad for submission to the cabinet for study and possible approval.

Goal of Support

The primary goal of the support that the State of Kuwait gives to societies and institutions abroad is to serve its foreign policy and to finance projects that would benefit the government and people of Kuwait. When Kuwait provides this assistance, it wants to see that those around it enjoy prosperity and stability as long as it is able to do so by supporting human development and growth through scientific knowledge which will make possible

great opportunities for developing human society as individuals and as groups on the national, Islamic and individual levels. Kuwait strongly believes in its place as a gulf country, an Arab country and an Islamic country, in its sense of a common destiny with other Arab peoples and in its conviction that anything that helps the Arab and Islamic peoples and the Arab and Islamic communities in other countries of the world helps Kuwait and its people ideologically and politically. Kuwait also wants to support any scientific progress in the spheres from which it or society at large could benefit, such as medical or other research which lessens the suffering of the individual and relies on charitable sources for its continuation and progress.

Priorities of Support and Assistance Policy:

The following principles should be followed in order to achieve the aforementioned goals:

1. Assistance should be given to institutions and organizations abroad in accordance with the following priorities:
 - a. Institutions and organizations in the countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and in Arab countries
 - b. Institutions and organizations in other Islamic countries
 - c. Institutions and organizations in other countries.
2. Assistance should be given to educational, research and charitable institutions which carry out scientific research from which the State of Kuwait would benefit directly and to centers and university departments where the Arabic language and Islamic history are taught and particularly those which are in sympathy with Arab and Islamic causes.
3. The committee advises that assistance not be granted to scientific, educational or research projects recommended by Kuwait's representatives in international bodies until after they have obtained authorization from the committee.
4. It is preferable that assistance be given to centralized projects offering comprehensive services from which the greatest number would benefit. Projects should also be located in geographical areas where there is a lack of such projects, and there should be sufficient information available on total and partial costs if the request pertains to one stage of a project only.
5. Assistance may be in cash or in kind, provided that the amount given to any one quarter does not exceed 100,000 dinars, except in exceptional cases, so that the greatest number of requests can be fulfilled from the amount set aside for the committee in a given fiscal year and in the belief that assistance in larger amounts is usually awarded by the cabinet on the basis of political considerations beyond the missions and authority of the committee.

KUWAIT

WOMEN'S DELEGATION VISITS SOVIET UNION

Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Jan 85 p 3

[Article: "Kuwaiti Women's Delegation Concludes Visit to Soviet Union; Pleased with Discussions and Amazed at Role of Soviet Woman"]

[Text] The Kuwaiti women's delegation which is currently visiting the Soviet Union has expressed its complete satisfaction with the visit and praised the discussions they had with several representatives of Soviet women's circles and the Ministry of Education. They also expressed their amazement at the role the Soviet woman played and still plays in various spheres of social, political, economic and educational life and at her prominent role during World War II.

Mrs Fatimah al-Mutawwa', head of the Kuwaiti Women's Social Cultural Society, said the following at a press conference with Arab and Soviet journalists at the Kuwaiti News Agency's office in Moscow: "Our visit to our friend the Soviet Union left us with a very positive impression, since we had several meetings with Deputy Minister of Education Marina Zhuravleva and the Secretariat of the Soviet Women's Committee. We also had a detailed meeting with the deputy chairwoman of the Federation of Soviet Friendship Societies. All of these meetings dealt with developing relations between our organization and the Soviet Women's Committee and ways to expand these relations through visits, meetings, exhibitions and correspondence for the benefit this would have for both countries. We visited Leningrad and Tashkent, where we saw the historical sights and learned a great deal about the activities of the Soviet woman in several fields--in factories, institutions, child-rearing, on farms and in the mines. We saw up close the important, prominent role the woman plays in Soviet society. We were greeted very warmly everywhere we went, and we told the Soviet women about the life of the Arab woman, the Kuwaiti and Gulf woman in particular. We also told them about the women's movement in Kuwait and the activities of our organization. The Soviet Women's Committee proposed the idea of providing scholarships to our organization so that we could send needy female students, either Kuwaiti or non-Kuwaiti, to study abroad for whatever reason."

Mrs al-Mutawwa' said the following about the goals of the Society: "Our organization, founded in 1962, is a social, cultural society concerned with the interests of mothers and children which works to strengthen the bonds of cooperation with other women's organizations throughout the world. It is a source of pride and happiness that the Kuwaiti woman is totally aware of her role in helping to achieve complete development for her country and the entire Arab nation. The establishment of this women's volunteer charitable society may be the greatest proof of the realization of the honorable goal for which it was founded by a group of educated young Kuwaiti women to repay the education and knowledge afforded them by Kuwaiti society."

She said, "Activities of our society are carried out through the work of several committees, including the cultural, conference, social, nourishment, alms, child-rearing and information committees. Motivated by its humanitarian goals, the society has broadened its activities beyond the local area to include the region, the Arab countries and other countries of the world."

Women's Society Activities

"As you know, the society belongs to the Arab Women's Union and was the originator of the idea of a committee to coordinate women's activities in the Gulf and the Arabian peninsula. The society has also participated and still participates in several international, Arab and regional conferences, meetings and seminars and has close ties with all women's unions throughout the world."

Regarding charitable projects undertaken by the society outside Kuwait, Mrs Fatimah 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Mutawwa' stressed that 'in southern Lebanon, the society established a 'village of mercy,' renting the first house in the village and taking in 65 children. However, because of the Zionist attacks on southern Lebanon, this excellent, very expensive charitable project was stopped. The nourishment committee also set up a 'village of mercy' in Sudan to house 1,000 children stricken by the drought. The first stage of this project, which consists of drilling artesian wells, costs more than \$5 million dollars. The government of Sudan gave us the land for this project free. We stressed that this water must be used for agricultural production and not only for drinking. The society recently mounted a campaign to collect donations to aid the victims of the famine in Africa which netted more than 50,000 Kuwaiti dinars."

In reply to a question about the idea of establishing a Women's Union in Kuwait, Mrs al-Mutawwa' welcomed the idea and said that it would be a positive thing in Kuwait right now.

About the decision to prohibit Kuwaiti women from participating in election to the boards of directors of cooperative societies, she said, "This decision angers every Kuwaiti woman because it violates their rights. At the same time that we were demanding to enter the National Assembly, they

are preventing us from casting our votes in the cooperative societies on the pretext that our women cannot stand heat or cold. Of course, this is a feeble excuse; the real reason is the blind prejudice that some have toward Kuwaiti women. Our visit to the Soviet Union during the bitter winter was aimed at, among other things, proving that Kuwaiti women can stand intense heat and bitter cold alike."

The Kuwaiti women's delegation, headed by Mrs Fatimah 'Abd-al-'Aziz and including Miss Suha Mulla Husayn, left the Soviet capital yesterday for Athens on their way to Kuwait following an official visit to the Soviet Union, during which they held intensive talks with Soviet women's circles and learned about social, political, economic and cultural life in the Soviet Union.

9882

CSO: 4404/208

SYRIA

POTABLE WATER STORAGE PROJECT IMPLEMENTED IN DAMASCUS

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 3 Dec 84 p 3

[Article by Khadijah Muhammad: "Potable Water Storage Project for the Low Areas of Damascus Implemented at a Cost of 50 Million Pounds"]

[Text] Under the auspices of President Hafiz al-Asad on the occasion of the celebration of the 14th anniversary of the corrective movement the Damascus water storage project was inaugurated last Thursday.

This major project is one of the most important in the country, and cost about 50 million Syrian pounds. It has been equipped with the best electromechanical equipment and electronic operation consoles. Every aspect of the project called for a high level of technology, from the initial investigation, to construction, to equipping it to provide water for all of the low areas of Dsmascus, or about three fifths of the total area of the city. Before the water storage project was implemented the existing reservoirs held only 50,000 cubic meters, or one seventh of the city's daily consumption, which caused water shortages.

Each year Damascus's water consumption increases by 7 percent. This is double the normal rate of increase in most of the world's cities. This means that more water must be provided. These potable water storage projects have been implemented as a result of the urgent need to increase the quantity and capacity of the reservoirs. In this way the 'Ayn al-Fijah Water Authority increased the capacity of the reservoirs from 50,000 cubic meters to 180,000 cubic meters. This capacity will meet the needs of the city's low-lying areas completely.

The subterranean reservoirs, which were built in the heart of Qasiyun Mountain at a depth of 400 meters, were designed for a large capacity, so that as much as possible of the water reaching Damascus could be stored at a high elevation, and then be distributed to the various parts of the city as needed. These reservoirs consist of four big tunnels dug in the center of the mountain. Each has the following dimensions: 160 meters by 12 meters by 12 meters. The construction of these subterranean reservoirs required the additional construction of a sluice gate chamber to control filling of the reservoirs, and an operations and pumping room

to control distribution of the water from the reservoirs to the various parts of the city according to demand. The subterranean reservoirs in Qasiyun Mountain will hold 60,000 cubic meters. There will also be 12 additional reservoirs in various parts of the city, each with a capacity of 32,000 cubic meters. The western reservoir, which was inaugurated on the occasion of the 14th anniversary of the blessed corrective movement, has a capacity of 40,000 cubic meters, and is situated at a height of 750 meters. It is part of a group of four prestressed reinforced concrete reservoirs, each 40 meters in diameter and 10 meters high, each with a capacity of 10,000 cubic meters of water, making the project's total capacity 40,000 cubic meters.

The western reservoir is fed by water from two pipes to the subterranean reservoirs.

The reservoir's four pools are cylindrical, 40 meters in diameter and 12 meters high, and were constructed of prestressed reinforced concrete using the most advanced scientific and technological methods in the world. Incidentally, the project was implemented by an Arab contracting company using Arab technicians and Arab labor. The exterior of these pools have an impermeable concrete coating. The interior has a complete illumination system to facilitate monitoring and maintenance to keep them in good shape.

In addition to the four water storage reservoirs the project also has an important operations room 40 meters long by 15 meters wide, to ensure the proper distribution of water to the low-lying areas of Damascus in accordance with demand. The gates can be operated manually, electrically or mechanically, and at a location remote from the automated control center as well. The reservoir also has a 1,100 meter long discharge canal which can be used during emergencies to empty its contents into the Barada River. The reservoir has also been equipped with a sluice gate which will close automatically in the event of a break in any of the six external distribution pipelines. The two largest pipes are 1,200 mm in diameter. Their function is to carry water to the low-lying part of Damascus, that is, the area which is situated below 730 meters. This includes most--three fifths--of the city.

Implementation of the water storage project began in early 1979. Work was completed in mid-May 1983. TISHRIN has learned that many problems stood in the way of the reservoir's design and implementation because of the height at which it had to be situated. It was in an area where the soil was inappropriate in most locations, and contained numerous clefts and caves. Additional time was required in selecting the desired site to assure that it was free of clefts and caves, and that the soil was firm enough to withstand the anticipated weight. All of these things contributed to the delay in the project.

The concerned parties directed their attention to implementing this vital project which followed implementation of the basic project over the last few years as part of a plan designed for this purpose. This included the following accomplishments:

Improved utilization of the al-Fiyah spring to obtain additional quantities of water, bringing its daily output to 450 cubic meters, and to prevent internal leaks.

Construction of a new tunnel to transport as much water as possible to the city.

Construction of 11 new reservoirs with a total capacity of 125,000 cubic meters to increase the daily storage capacity.

Designing an 850 km water system to replace the very old systems and supply the growing city.

Construction of pumping stations to ensure water for the elevated parts of the city.

A center for monitoring and automated control of these installations.

Providing the technical and administrative personnel and the labor needed for maintenance, operation and utilization of this facility in the best way possible.

We should put in another word about the blessed corrective movement which accomplished this project under the direction, care and leadership of our struggler president, Hafiz al-Asad. He cares about the masses and is trying to provide for all of their needs through numerous great achievements under the auspices of his sagacious leadership.

9123

CSO: 4404/162

SYRIA

COTTON CROP DOWN BY 100,000 TONS IN 1984

Damascus TISHRIN in Arabic 11 Dec 84 p 5

[Article by Nadir Makanisi: "Why Is Cotton Production Down? 1984 Production Amounted To 423,000 Tons, In Contrast To 523,000 Tons In 1983"]

[Text] It is necessary to stick to planting schedules for healthy, plentiful production.

Syrian cotton is internationally famous and there is a demand for it in foreign markets. The country has made strides in cotton growing, and has achieved abundant yields, particularly during the 1983 season, when cotton production amounted to 523,000 tons, a record for the country. This level of production had been expected to increase during the 1984 season. But that did not happen for several reasons.

Indications are that this year's cotton crop will be 423,000 tons, a 100,000 tons drop from last year.

To find out why cotton production was lower this season we met with Dr Farid Khuri, the director general of the cotton authority in Aleppo. He spoke about the 1984 cotton harvest and the reasons for the lower yield.

He said, "In order to understand the 1984 cotton crop the best approach would be to compare it with the 1983 season, when production reached its highest level in the country's history, and brought the highest revenues as well. In 1983 the yield was about 3,000 kg per hectare. Indications are that the 1984 crop will be 423,000 tons. In examining the causes for the 100,000 ton decline in production it should be noted that the area cultivated in 1983 was approximately 175,000 hectares, while in 1984 it was 173,500 hectares, 1,500 hectares less than the previous year. This means that the decreased yield as a result of the reduced area would be about 4,500 tons on the basis of the yield per hectare in the previous year.

"Furthermore, early in the season, during the planting period there were environmental factors, such as lower temperatures and heavy rain, particularly during the period between the end of the second week of April and the beginning of the first week of May. These factors led to slower cotton growth in areas where planting was early, and to delayed planting in the areas not yet planted.

"These factors caused the incidence of (suffocation) [al-khinaq] disease, in its various stages, to spread among the plants, causing the seeds and roots to rot, and the seedlings to suffocate. The amount of damage from this disease varied from one area to another, depending on the extent to which it penetrated the soil. This made it necessary to replant a total of about 300,000 dunams in all parts of the country."

The Sown Areas Were Replanted

In fact, most of the areas that had to be replanted were those which had been planted by machine with a shaved seeds. This is due to several factors, most significantly the following:

The average of the shaved seeds for mechanical planting is 6 kg, while the average of the seeds for traditional methods is 12 kg, twice as much.

In addition to the presence of a percentage of imperfections in the shaved seeds, which ranged from approximately 1 to 7 percent, there was also a certain amount of breakage in the shaved seeds, averaging about 15 percent. This is because they were shaved by using oil company shavers not equipped with sieves, and as a result a quantity of imperfect and broken seeds were mixed in with the rest, which [are planted in the amount of] 6 kg per unit of area.

The Need to Sterilize the Shaved Seeds

If we want to avoid such ambiguities in the future we must sterilize the shaved cotton seeds in antifungal disinfectants to protect against (suffocation) disease. That would implement the recommendations of the scientific cotton conference held in 1982, and reaffirmed by the cotton conference held in 1983. The scientific conference affirmed this principle as a result of its deliberations on research carried out locally over a period of 14 years.

It is essential to avoid improper shaving, and the seeds must be sifted, to eliminate imperfect and broken seeds from the good ones.

Furthermore, the agencies responsible for testing the seeds must calculate the germination rate after determining the percentage of imperfect and broken seeds that remain. Without such a determination, misleading results about the suitability of the seeds may be given.

This is especially true in view of the fact that the widespread use of shaved seeds is a recent development in our country.

As a result of what we have just mentioned, physiologically the cotton plants were 20 to 30 days less developed than they were in 1983 in many areas.

As a result, as explained in a report by the management of the cotton office to the 17th cotton conference which was held from 7 to 8 January 1984, plants

that blossomed in September constituted about 5 percent of total production, at that time estimated at about 25,000 tons.

Adding this figure to the figure resulting from the decreased area under cultivation, the production drop is about 30,000 tons of cotton.

Reasons For the Remaining 70,000 Ton Shortfall:

In answer to this question Dr Khuri said the following:

"We can divide the country into two regions.

"The following areas constitute the first region: al-Hasakah, al-Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr, Aleppo, Idlib, al-Ghab, Hamah, Hims and Damascus. They are grouped together because since 15 October they have received copious, incessant rainfall this season, which caused flooding in some areas. This caused a decrease in the number of cotton plants and caused the bolls to open on the ground or to be lost. In addition, the temperature was lower and there was greater moisture, which made it impossible to use the bolls which developed during the last third of August. Our preliminary estimates indicate that this accounts for a loss of about 7 percent of the total production, or about 35,000 tons.

"The second region consists of the governorates of al-Raqqah, Dayr al-Zawr and the areas of Marqadah and al-Shaddadah in the governorate of al-Hasakah.

"In these regions it was warmer than usual during the day and cooler than usual at night. The temperature was higher than the maximum the plants could tolerate and this caused the loss of buds, flowers and bolls in plants less than 8 days old."

The critical maximum temperature by day is 37.7 degrees, and the critical minimum at night is 21 degrees.

A look at the temperature tables indicates that from 27 June to 28 July the highest temperatures in the day and the lowest at night were consistently higher than the plant's critical maximum. This caused the plants to lose their fruit and leaves.

Sticking to Planting Schedules To Ensure Good Yields

In examining the planting schedules we find that those areas which were planted on 1 April reached their peak florescence and growth before the critical maximum temperature was exceeded on 27 June. As a result, yields were normal for those areas.

Depending on the extent to which planting was delayed, the fruit formation period occurred during the critical period between 27 June and 29 July. Information contained in a report on planting in the Euphrates basin, and

information obtained from the management of the cotton office indicates the following:

In areas planted between 1 and 15 April the plants bore ripe bolls, with an average of 12 to 14 bolls per plant.

Areas planted between 15 and 29 April had 8 to 10 bolls per plant.

In areas planted between 1 and 10 May the number of bolls was 6 to 8 per plant.

Areas planted between 10 and 20 May had 4 to 6 bolls per plant.

Areas planted between 20 and 25 May had only 1 or 2 bolls per plant.

As a result, yields ranged from a low of 50 kg per dunam in the governorates of al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr and the districts of al-Marqadah and al-Shaddadah in al-Hasakah, [which were planted] during the latter half of May to 300 to 350 kg per dunam in the areas planted in early April.

On the basis of the planting schedules in the governorates of al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr their yield has been estimated at only 100,000 to 110,000 tons.

This is about 30,000 to 35,000 tons less than expected.

By adding this shortfall we can in fact see the true reasons for the decrease in production from 523,000 tons in 1983 to 423,000 tons in 1984.

Using Early Varieties To Resist the Heat

The cotton office is trying to create early varieties that are resistant to heat to use in the governorates of al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr. These would be somewhat similar to the varieties grown in those regions prior to 1977, before which they had not been exposed to such phenomena.

This would be done on the condition that these varieties also be able to withstand the heat, and could be planted early to avoid any disease and bear fruit before the critical period in July, and so that they could withstand the heat in case there is any delay in planting.

The management of the cotton office currently has shaved varieties which it may recommend after discussing the results at the next cotton conference.

Early Planting Is Essential

A summary of what was said follows:

It is essential to concentrate on planting early, within the dates specified in the recommendations of the cotton conference. These dates are as follows:

In the governorates of Dayr al-Zawr and al-Hasakah beginning 1 April. In al-Raqqah and Aleppo beginning 10 April.

In Damascus, Idlib, Hims and Hamah, beginning 1 April.

In particular, special attention must be given to teaching farmers in the governorates of al-Raqqah and Dayr al-Zawr that it is necessary to leave more space between individual plants because the more densely they are planted the lower their yield, and the plants lose their leaves.

The average number of plants per dunam ranges from 8,000 to 12,000. In some fields, however, there are 20,000 and 40,000 plants per dunam.

It is necessary to teach the farmers how to use nitrogenous fertilizer properly. When the farmers were using 26 percent (kalnitro) fertilizer they used one bag of fertilizer per dunam. When 46 percent urea was introduced the farmers continued to use one bag of fertilizer per dunam, which is twice the proper amount. As a result, the plants lost their leaves. Therefore, special attention must be given to teaching the correct use of fertilizer.

During the critical periods many farmers water their plants excessively, use too much fertilizer, and plant too densely. This causes the worst loss of leaves. Cotton must be watered lightly and frequently rather than heavily and infrequently.

Experimental Mechanical Picking

On the subject of the extent to which mechanization is being used in growing and harvesting cotton, and the benefits derived therefrom, Dr Khuri said the following:

"Mechanization of cotton farming can be divided into two phases.

"The first includes all farming operations involved in growing the crop, including ploughing and seeding, until the time for harvesting. This phase must be mechanized completely in order to increase production.

"The second phase involves mechanical harvesting. We are experimenting so that we will be prepared to use mechanical harvesting equipment when it becomes necessary to do so.

"Nevertheless, we must continue to pick cotton by hand as long as we are able to. We know that we were able to pick 523,000 tons by hand in 1983, when environmental factors were appropriate, of course.

"Currently, we are not using mechanized methods of harvesting for the following reasons:

"Mechanized harvesting causes 8 to 12 percent of the yield to be lost, and it reduces the quality of cotton by a grade or more.

"This has repercussions on the income of the farmer and on the national income. Furthermore, Syrian cotton is preferred in world markets because it is hand picked. We cannot allow this distinction to be jeopardized.

"Cotton picking time is September through November. During these months opportunities for farm work [other than harvesting] are at a minimum, so rural workers, who constitute a majority [of the nation's population], can find work picking cotton.

"The wages paid for picking 500,000 tons of cotton amount to 300 million Syrian pounds. It would not be fair to deprive the rural workers of this income. Nor would it be right to spend hard currency to buy mechanized harvesting equipment at the present time, since it could be spent in economically more important areas. This does not mean that we are against using mechanized harvesting equipment on the nation's farms in principle."

9123

CSO: 4404/162

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

EXPANSION OF AIRPORT NETWORK TO HANDLE HIGH VOLUME

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
9 Jan 85 p 2

[Article: "United Emirates Expand Their Airport Network--Plans Implemented With Help of International Firms"]

[Text] Four international airports already exist in the United Arab Emirates; two more will be added in the future. Of the four existing airports, those located near the cities of Abu Dhabi and Dubayy will be enlarged. The two new ones will be located in Fujairah, the emirate on the coast of the Gulf of Oman, and near Al Ain, an oasis and university town in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. It is also worth mentioning that there is another airport near the town of Abu Dhabi which used to serve international air traffic. It is now intended only for the use of prominent persons. Military airbases are also being set up.

The new international airport of the town of Abu Dhabi, built about 23 km east of the old one, became operational in January 1982. Siemens AG of Munich/Berlin supplies all of the airport's lighting, electric power and computer processing systems for controlling and monitoring the optical navigational aids. Even though its capacity for handling 3 million passengers per year has not yet been approached, delays in the processing of passengers occur in the morning and evening hours because of heavy concentration of air traffic at these times. For that reason, construction of an additional passenger terminal is being considered. The first passenger terminal was built by a Japanese consortium consisting of the two Japanese firms of Takenaka Komuten and Kumagai Gumi.

Contracts for the construction of additional installations at the international airport of Abu Dhabi have recently been let. In July 1984, the Hochtief AG, Essen, booked a contract valued at 235.9 million dirham (1 dirham equals about DM 0.83) for the construction of a maintenance and repair facility to be completed by 1987. It is to be used for the maintenance and repair of the airplanes of all types of the Gulf Air airline, a joint enterprise of the Gulf states of Bahrain, Qatar, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. About 600 engineers and technicians will find new jobs here.

A new navigational flight system became operational in the fall of 1984 which now permits takeoffs and landings in foggy weather and avoids the need for

detours to other United Arab Emirates airports. The international airport of Abu Dhabi--which cost roughly 1.5 billion dirham--handled 2.27 million passengers in 1983, 1.6 percent more than in the previous year. Freight traffic increased by 3.7 percent to 34,874 tons.

Traffic at the international airport of Dubai reached a higher peak in 1983. It was used by 3.57 million passengers, 6.3 percent more than in 1982. Freight traffic increased by 14.3 percent to 82,527 tons. To handle the rising passenger traffic in the future, a contract--valued at 111 million dirham--for the construction of a new passenger terminal was let in August 1984. The contract went to a consortium composed of the local Dutco Construction Company and the British firm Balfour Beatty Construction Ltd, Thornton Heath (Surrey). The airport's capacity for handling passengers will increase to 5.25 million per annum after the completion of the expansion project in 1986.

The Norwegian Kongsberg Vapenfabrikk has received a contract valued at \$3.2 million for furnishing a gas turbine, with an installed capacity of nine megawatts, for electric power supply. The expansion of freight processing installations, which had been planned by the American Bechtel Overseas company--a subsidiary of the Bechtel Corporation--has been postponed for the time being. This relates to a freight installation with a yearly capacity of 120,000 tons. A second runway, also 4,000 meters long and parallel to the first, was officially inaugurated in March 1984. The \$31 million contract had been awarded in 1982 to the Naboodah-Medcon consortium. The Bechtel Overseas company had been charged with planning tasks.

The development of the international airport of Sharjah--located in the desert about 15 km east of the town of Sharjah on the road to Daidh--has been severely retarded by its proximity to the international airport of Dubayy. The Frankfurt Flughafen AG (FAG), Frankfurt, has been involved in management. Traffic is expected to increase since the Sharjah Emirate will gain greater economic significance because of development of natural gas resources. In the 1983/84 reporting year (which ended in June 1984), the international airport of Sharjah was used by 425,255 passengers, 6 percent more than in the previous reporting year. At present, no capital expenditures for expansion or modernization are planned. The same is true for the less important international airport of Ras al Khaimah which remains underutilized. The most recent discovery of oil may have a favorable impact on air traffic.

The new international airport of the Fujairah Emirate is supposed to be completed in mid-1985. The 22 million dirham contract for the construction of the 3,050-meter long runway was awarded to the local Bin Ladin organization. The specifications for the airport terminal will be published soon. The documentation was prepared by PGA Consultants, a branch of the British firm LG Mouchel & Partners.

The first contract for preliminary excavations was awarded in July 1983 for the new international airport of Al Ain which calls for a capital investment of about 1 billion dirham. It was granted to a consortium which includes the local Al Muhairy General Contracting Company and the Consolidated Contractors

International Company, Athens, which is owned by Lebanese nationals. Since that time several bids have been advertised but only one contract has been firmly awarded.

This contract was received by the French airport company Aeroports de Paris (AP), Orly, in July 1984 for the design of the main passenger terminal and the royal pavilion. Aeroports de Paris (AP) had already designed the new international airport for the town of Abu Dhabi. The award for the contract for the most important construction work is expected in the spring of 1985. The British engineering consulting firm Scott Wilson Kirkpatrick & Partners (SWK), Basingstoke (Hampshire) has completed planning for this work and the international solicitation of bids is being prepared.

The construction of the Minhab military air base, located 6 km from the town of Dubayy and the harbor and industrial town of Jebel Ali, will bring considerable relief to Dubayy's international airport. Construction contracts with an estimated value of \$50 to \$62 million were awarded to 5 local companies. The previously mentioned Dutco Construction company is the general contractor. Another member of the Dutco Group, the Dutco Pauling firm, is building the runway. The Al Naboodah Contracting Company received a contract for additional construction work and the United Trading & Transport Company received a contract for the construction of access roads. The Lunar Drake & Scull company assumed responsibility for electrical and mechanical tasks. The project is scheduled for completion within 12 months. The British firm of Robert Mathew, Johnson-Marshall & Partners, together with the local Projects International, is involved in an advisory capacity.

12628

CSO: 4620/23

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

GERMAN COMPANIES FIND NICHE IN DOMESTIC INDUSTRY

Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER ZEITUNG/BLICK DURCH DIE WIRTSCHAFT in German
18 Jan 85 p.2

[Article: "German Firms Active in the UAE--Participation in a Variety of Endeavors"]

[Text] German companies have recently been successfully engaged in the United Arab Emirates. They have both received new contracts and they have completed those previously awarded in a satisfactory manner. This applies particularly to the supply of industrial installations, but also to construction work and to the assumption of responsibility as consulting engineers.

German firms also have an interest in the development of oil and natural gas resources. The BASF AG, Ludwigshafen--through the Wintershall AG, Kassel, and the Wintershall (UK) Ltd--has a 5.5 percent interest in the concessional area of the Ras al Khaimah Emirate where production of oil and natural gas discoveries started in 1984. Wintershall AG also receives oil from the Dubayy offshore concession in which it has a 5 percent interest through its subsidiary, the Delfzee Dubayy Petroleum N.V. It is also involved with a 5 percent interest in an onshore concession which started seismological explorations in 1983.

The Deminex -Deutsche Erdoelversorgungsgesellschaft GmbH [Deminex German Oil Supply Company], Essen, owns 55 percent of the concession rights in the Abu Dhabi Emirate in a region primarily located offshore. The first shallow water drilling took place in the spring of 1983 but yielded no results. Seismic measurements were taken to obtain profiles for more than 800 km as explorations continued. The British Charterhouse Petroleum, the American Union Texas and the Bahamian-registered Menco Oil Company are partners of Deminex which exercises management functions. Deminex is represented in the United Arab Emirates by its subsidiary company, the Abu Dhabi Oil Company Ltd which is located in the city of Abu Dhabi.

A spiral weld steel pipe factory in Sharjah started operations in mid-1984 in which the Sharjah Economic Development Corporation (Shedco) holds an 80 percent interest and Said Tawfiq Khoury--the Lebanese director of the Athens-registered Consolidated Contractors International Company which is Lebanese-owned--a 20 percent interest. Blohm and Voss AG, Hamburg, has received the

DM 25 million contract for supplying the complete spiral weld steel pipe factory. The pipe factory will be able to produce about 70,000 tons of pipes annually with a diameter between 304 mm and 1,525 mm and wall thicknesses up to 12.7 mm.

The Borsig GmbH, Berlin, owned by the German Babcock AG, Oberhausen, is currently fulfilling two large contracts in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. These concern the supply and installation of a steam boiler for a seawater desalination installation in Umm al Nar and another boiler for the seawater desalination plant in Al Taweelah which are supposed to be completed by the end of 1985 and 1986. The daily capacity of the seawater desalination plants is specified to be 100,000 tons of potable water for each. The total value of the contracts for the Borsig GmbH is DM 150 million. The company had already been awarded a contract in 1977 for the steam boilers for the first phase of the Umm al Nar installation; their trouble-free operations have had a decisive impact on the award of subsequent contracts.

Thyssen Engineering GmbH, Essen, received the job of expanding the water supply of a power plant in Abu Dhabi and the Thyssen Schalker Verein GmbH, Essen, was entrusted with the delivery of pressure pipes. Siemens AG, Munich/Berlin, was awarded the contract for supplying a high-voltage switching installation in the Abu Dhabi Emirate.

A plant for the manufacture of drugs of the Gulf Pharmaceuticals Industries in Ras al Khaimah started operation in October 1983; its total annual capacity is 70 million packaged units. The Uhde GmbH, Dortmund, a member of the Hoechst Group, received the contract for design, advertising for delivery and performance bids and supervision of all construction and assembly work. The "know-how" for operating the plant is based on the production technology of Hoechst AG, Frankfurt. The Uhde GmbH had already previously built the turnkey Amalgam-Elektrolyse plant (liquid chlorine, hydrochloric acid, sodium hypochlorite, aqueous sodium hydroxide) for the National Chlorine Industries (NCI) which started producing toward the end of 1981 and has been successfully operating from that time on. It is owned by the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) and cost a total of \$81 million.

Since the summer of 1984 the Robert Bosch GmbH, Stuttgart, has a new and efficient sales and service support organization in the town of Abu Dhabi. There the new Al Jallaf Trading building was completed and houses, side by side with modern sales and storage facilities, the best-equipped Bosch service in the Gulf region. About DM 3 million were invested in Al Jallaf Trading which has represented Bosch interests in the United Arab Emirates since 1977.

The beginning of operations of the large poultry farm in the Fujairah Emirate is scheduled for January 1985; it was built by the Arab Company for Poultry Production. Its equipment was supplied by the Lohmann & Co, AG, Cuxhaven. The local Bin Ladin Organization was charged with the construction work. The specified annual capacity of the poultry farm calls for 12 million eggs and 4,100 tons of meat, primarily in the form of ready-to-cook fattened and frozen chickens. The project was financed by the Arab Company for Lifestock Development (Acolid), Damascus (Syria) which is also furnishing its management.

The Coutinho, Caro & Co, AG, Hamburg, which is now owned by the American McDermott International Incorporated, New Orleans (Louisiana), was awarded a DM 70 million contract in the spring of 1984 in Abu Dhabi by the Mohamed Bin Masood and Sons company for the turnkey construction of a luxury high-rise in the center of town. The Hamburg firm succeeded in landing the contract against local and international competition because it specified the short construction time of 21 months. This became possible by the application of a new construction technology used here for the first time.

Hochtief AG, Essen, was awarded a DM 176 million contract in July 1984 for the construction of a maintenance and repair facility at the new international airport of Abu Dhabi. It is to be completed by 1987. The new installation will employ a crew of about 600 engineers and technicians.

The Ed. Zueblin AG Bauunternehmung [construction firm], Stuttgart, is currently executing a contract in the Abu Dhabi Emirate in Umm al Nar, East, in conjunction with its subsidiary Indeco, which was awarded in March 1983 and is valued at about DM 47 million. Construction time will be 2 years. The contract is in connection with the turnkey construction of a seawater desalination plant. The Strabach Bau-AG, Cologne, has continued road construction work on the mountainous Jabel Hafit road near the oasis and university town of Al Ain in the Abu Dhabi Emirate. It succeeded in booking additional contracts for the project.

Another German company that has become active in road construction in the United Arab Emirates, is the Heinrich Koehler Baugesellschaft [construction company] GmbH (HK), Berlin. The F. Willich GmbH and Co, Dortmund--one of the largest technical firms in the Federal Republic for the design and assembly of hot and cold insulations, technical sound barriers, building construction acoustics and fire-proofing--has a branch in Abu Dhabi. Another company which has the potential of being awarded contracts in the United Arab Emirates, is Karl Bauer Spezial Tiefbau [technical excavations] GmbH & Co, limited partnership, Schrobenhausen.

The Mannesmann AG, Duesseldorf, announced in the fall of 1984 that a new social, cultural and sports center was about to be dedicated in Al Ain. The Mero-Raumstruktur GmbH, Wuerzburg, a member company of Mannesmann Anlagenbau AG, Duesseldorf, has delivered a total of 17,400 square meters of MERO-interior lattice work for the dome (about 70 m diameter at the base). For the roof of the bleachers of the sports stadium MERO knotted rods were also used as structural elements.

Among the German engineering consulting firms which have recently landed contracts in the United Arab Emirates, is Lahmeyer International GmbH, Frankfurt, which is involved with the construction of the thermal power plant in Al Taweelah (210 megawatt) and the associated seawater desalination plant by acting as consultant for the seawater intake installation, and by being responsible for site preparation, the construction of apartments and the installation of high-voltage lines (132 and 220 kilovolts).

The Fichtner Beratende Ingenieure [consulting engineers] GmbH & Co, limited partnership, Stuttgart was consulted in connection with the expansion of the power generating and distribution facilities in the North Emirates and received a contract for providing a critical analysis for the Kalba power plant. Dr -Ing. Walter GmbH & Co, limited partnership, International (DIWI), Essen, in collaboration with the Pipeline Engineering GmbH (PLE), Essen--a subsidiary of Ruhrgas AG, Essen--assumed responsibility for implementation planning for the building facilities of a compressor station and associated measurement and control stations as well as for local management of construction. DIWI also received contracts from the Abu Dhabi Public Works Department planning and management of two road construction projects. The first relates to the improvement and expansion of the existing Abu Dhabi-Sweihan highway (70 km) and the superhighway sector from the Mussafah bridge to the cloverleaf intersection (3 km with an additional bridge).

The engineering company of Hoepfner Consulting GmbH, Cologne, became involved in planning the Abu Dhabi airport and the Heinle, Wischer and Partner Planungsgesellschaft GmbH, Stuttgart, is preparing a study for Al Ain University. The German Water Engineering GmbH (GWE), Lingen/Ems, as member of a consortium, has been entrusted with providing documentation for the solicitation of bids and with supervising the construction of a waste-water purification plant in Dubayy. It also acts as a consultant for farm irrigation and the water supply for the town of Seih Al Meyah. The Deutsche Telepost Consulting GmbH (Detecon), Bonn, is responsible for the planning of a data packet switching station.

12628

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28 March 1985

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

ARAB WRITER VISITS JEWISH COMMUNITY

London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 2 Feb 85 pp 9-10

[Article by 'Abd-al-Malik al-Sanadi; in Sanaa, date not specified]

[Text] One thousand and twenty-four years ago, specifically in 381 A.H., the number of houses in Sanaa was counted. We read about it in the "History of the City of Sanaa" as follows:

"I was told that a census was taken in Sanaa in the time of Abu Ja'far Ahmad bin Qays bin al-Dahhak--in the month of Safar 381. There were 40 hours, 35 of them owned by Jews."

Some time ago, with the storm created by the Ethiopian Jews or Falashas who were relocated to Israel, some Israeli rabbis again began to talk about bringing back what remains of the Arab Jews, the Jews of Yemen in particular." Why "the Jews of Yemen in particular"? This question was put to Arab history professors and sociologists. They were also asked to outline everything that affects Arab security. AL-TADAMUN for its part went to the Jews of Yemen where they live in the Sa'dah district and returned with the following account.

Most Arab capitals have a street or quarter called the "Jews' quarter." However, the concentration of Jews in a particular quarter or section, as a ghetto, is not peculiar to Arab capitals alone, for it exists wherever there are Jews.

Whenever mention was made of the Jews living in an Arab country, the Yemeni Jews received the most attention, perhaps because they are the only Jews remaining in the Arab peninsula. This may also be the reason why the Israeli media pay special attention to them and to what is said regarding "their return to the Promised Land." From time to time the local Israeli media and other media sympathetic to or influenced by them raised the question of the Jews still living in several Arab countries, focusing on the Yemeni Jews whose relocation to occupied Palestine is demanded by Israel.

On the eve of the disclosure of the relocation of Ethiopian Jews (Falashas) to Israel, some Israeli officials and especially rabbis played the same tune, the tune of the Yemeni Jews who "must return to the Promised Land," as they keep repeating.

AL-TADAMUN went on a field trip to the places where the Yemeni Jews are concentrated to talk to them and ask their opinion of what is said by Israeli officials and the media in Israel concerning the demand for them. Horror and astonishment were their reactions.

The Yemeni Jews to whom we talked are the ones who remained after the others emigrated to occupied Palestine during the rule of the family of Hamid al-Din. They live in the Sa'dah district, a province of the Yemen Arab Republic. Their numbers are estimated at more than 9,000.

If you are not a Yemeni and have never visited the Sa'dah district, you would probably not be able to distinguish the Yemeni Jews from their fellow countrymen. However, the Yemenis can recognize a Jew by the locks of hair that hang down from his temples, called "zananir." From childhood on the Yemeni Jew strives to lengthen these locks. He may shave his entire head but will keep these "zananir" just as they are.

Otherwise there is nothing to distinguish the Yemeni Jew from the Muslim either in dress or appearance or degree of patriotism because the government treats him like all the other Yemenis. The Yemeni Jew is a Yemeni in character, customs, traditions, and even in the dagger that he insists on carrying and exhibiting as openly as any other Yemeni.

We met some Yemenis in the house of a Jew in the village of Gharaz on the outskirts of Sa'dah. Not all those present were Jews. There were Muslims as well, neighbors and friends of those whom we met. At first there was a little shyness because some of them wondered why the press was interviewing ordinary citizens no different from their countrymen. Khursan 'Assar asked me: "Why don't you meet with Muslims? What is the criterion or motive for this meeting? Is it to cast doubt on our loyalty to Yemen?"

Although I gave a number of justifications, he was not convinced until I recalled something that a magazine published several days ago: "The United States is trying very hard to convince the Sanaa government to allow the Yemeni Jews to go to occupied Palestine."

When I showed him the item, he was surprised and asked: "Why should we leave our country in which we were born, which has protected us and will protect us, to go to a place that we do not know and have not heard of except through the news of wars that break out there because of this emigration?"

We met citizen Yahya Dawud Sabri, who works as a silversmith and continues to practice his occupation and sell his products in a shop that he owns in the city. He also works on a farm that he owns. Yahya says he has lived with his forefathers in this place. His first wife emigrated 25 years ago to Palestine. However, he remarried and now has seven sons and three daughters. According to Yahya, more than 30 Jewish families are now living in areas near Sa'dah like Gharaz, al-Sahn, and Dimaj, but in more densely populated districts like Amlah and Haydun there are more than 80 families. They live like the rest of their fellow countrymen and practice their rites and always get together and, according to Yahya Sabri, do so on numerous

occasions, for example, wedding ceremonies, religious holidays, New Year's festivities, Day of Atonement, and other festivals.

Yahya added:

"There is a synagogue near Amlah and another in the village of Haydan where many Jews live and we are about to build a synagogue here. Almur Yusuf Ba'akar--apparently one of their elders--promised to supply us with a Torah. After that we will build the synagogue here."

I asked him about the circumstances of their life here and whether they are happy and have good friends among their brothers. He said that there circumstances are normal and they are living like their fellow countrymen, free in their own land.

He went on to say: "Some of us left Yemen before the 26 September 1962 revolution. Among them was my wife and I am still tempted by the thought that she will return to her country. It would be nice if the person reading these lines helped me in this by letting her know that I am waiting for her even though she left more than 25 years ago!"

When we spoke about the transportation of the Jews (Falashas) from Ethiopia and asked whether he knew of the attempts being made by Israel to collect all the Jews and settle them in the occupied lands, he said he heard a great deal about that, but it does not concern him because he is a Yemeni citizen above everything and will remain in his country. In fact, he demands the return of all those who in the past were induced to migrate because life in the Yemen Arab Republic is better than anywhere else, "for it is on this soil that we came into the prime of life and grew old and we must not deny it or our homeland. As the Yemeni proverb says, 'Dear to the tribesman is his country.'" And he added:

"As for what happened in Ethiopia, I regard that as a racist division between fellow countrymen. I think that when destiny afflicts a people with a disaster, all must endure this fate until all are delivered. If a country sympathizes with this people in their trial, it must treat all the individuals alike and not save a particular group as such. We heard that the Israeli cabinet called for our return through some country, but we repeat and will go on repeating that we have no desire to leave our country Yemen. We will reject all proposals as we rejected them before."

When I asked his opinion about what some keep saying to the effect that the Palestine problem is war between the Arabs and the Jews, he said: "We are living in our country in peace. If anything happened to our country, we would rush to its defense. As for wars elsewhere, we derive no benefit from them and are not influenced by them. We have been in our country a long time and will continue to live here. We are concerned with Yemen and its happiness because we are from Yemen and for Yemen."

The meeting ends.

The photographer and I leave Sa'dah to return to Sanaa with the words of Khursan 'Assar ringing in my ears: "Why should we leave our country Yemen for a country about which we know nothing except the wars that break out there." And I say to myself, "because they want you only as fuel for these wars of aggression and nothing else!"

5214

CSO: 4404/223

AFGHANISTAN

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ORGANS SAID FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY PEOPLE

Kabul ANIS in Dari 24 Jan 85 p. 2

[Summary of HEYWAD reporter's interview with the first deputy attorney-general of the DRA regarding the activities of that office in supervising law enforcement; date not specified]

[Text] Question: In a general context, how do you assess the supervision over law enforcement and from what date and in what areas has the supervisory program of the DRA attorney-general's office gone into effect?

Answer: One of the benefits of the new phase of the Sawr Revolution is the Fundamental Principles of DRA. These are the most important basic tenets of social, economic and political order as well as the insurance of democratic rights and freedoms and the duties of the citizenry. With due regard to conditions and situations in the country, basic and vital reforms have been drawn up and put into effect in bringing about unswerving and uniform law enforcement and the democratization of the law enforcement system by cancellation of unjust laws and their substitution by progressive legislation for the benefit of society, conforming to moral, social, economic and political norms.

Progressive laws applied in specific method and manner have helped to insure revolutionary order, full public security and the welfare of individuals in line with the rights of the citizenry and has attracted public attention to the role of the attorney-general's office in revolutionary law enforcement and public confidence in the power of this organization in guaranteeing social justice by supervising the uniform application of law. Following the implementation of progressive and popular laws, for the first time in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] the idea of law enforcement supervision by the attorney-general's office came up and the Office of Law Enforcement Supervision came into being.

The Office of Law Enforcement Supervision of the attorney-general's office works in 3 areas with the aim of insuring the goals mentioned earlier, i.e.: 1) Supervision to insure uniform law enforcement by all central and local organs of governmental power as well as 'joint' government and private institutions, social organizations, responsible officials and the citizenry; 2) insuring supervision over the application and due process of law during

punishment, imprisonment or detention in prisons, detention centers, correctional institutions and juvenile centers; 3) the classification of laws, care of documents, method of abrogation of law and the availability of legal works and books aimed at the up-grading of the legal knowledge of attorneys.

Subsequently, with the passage of time and the accumulation of know-how and practical experience which required supervision on a wider basis, those very Fundamental Principles of the DRA indicated the following requirements in the supervision of law enforcement: 1) Supervision to insure a uniform application of law in central and local organs of governmental authority and administration, 'mixed' government and private institutions, social organizations, responsible officials and the citizenry; 2) insure uniform application of law and the strengthening of law enforcement in places of suspended freedom; 3) protection of the rights and freedoms of the citizenry as reflected in the Fundamental Principles of the DRA and other guaranteed laws in relation to complaints and grievances of the citizenry concerning illegal practices in government offices, 'joint' government and private institutions and social organization; protection of the rights and interests of central and local organizations of government authority and administration, 'joint' government and private institutions and social organizations; 5) taking necessary measures in conjunctions with the participation of organs under supervision in making responsible officials aware of the context of relevant laws through lectures and orientation; 6) an assessment of whether guidelines, instructions, decrees and other similar documents issued by the office under supervision conform to decrees emanating from the Fundamental Principles of the DRA, laws, decrees and decisions of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA and laws, decrees and decisions approved by the Central Committee of the PDPA, Council of Ministers of DRA and its executive committee; 7) examination of how provincial attorneys supervise a uniform enforcement of law and the strengthening of law application in local organs of government authority and administration, and places of detention.

Question: In the course of 1361 and 1362 [21 March 1982-20 March 1984] how many government organs were involved in putting the supervision program into force and how do you sum up the results?

Answer: It must be said in regard to this program that Article 60 of the DRA Fundamental Principles is clear on the subject and outlines the general outline in regard to the responsibilities of the attorney-general's office in supervising proper law enforcement. It behooves that the worthy objectives of Articles 59 and 60 of the Fundamental Principles of the DRA (as confirmed in Article 62 of those principles), be promulgated in form of a law and supervision and compliance with law enforcement be organized according to democratic norms and legal standards--even as the limits of the duties, prerogatives and actions of the attorney-general's office are organized.

5854

CSO: 4655/38

AFGHANISTAN

COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Kabul ANIS in Dari 15 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] A protocol of cooperation between the PDPA and the communist party of Czechoslovakia was signed in Kabul day before yesterday.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the PDPA by Mahmud Bariyalai, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and on behalf of the Czechoslovak Communist Party by Nikolai Binov, a member of that party's secretariat and secretary of its Central Committee.

A protocol of cooperation between the PDPA and the Syrian Communist Party was signed in Kabul on Wednesday [9 Jan]. The protocol was signed on behalf of the PDPA by Mahmud Bariyalai, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and by Rumi Sheikhu Farah, member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee on behalf of the Syrian Communist Party.

A protocol of cooperation was signed in Kabul day before yesterday between the PDPA and the Communist Party of Saudi Arabia.

The protocol was signed on behalf of the PDPA by Mahmud Bariyalai, alternate Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and on behalf of the Communist Party of Saudi Arabia and head of that country's party delegation visiting Kabul to honor the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA.

A protocol of cooperation between the PDPA and the Revolutionary Party of the Kampuchean People was signed in Kabul day before yesterday.

Signing for the PDPA was Mahmud Bariyalai, alternate Politburo members and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA and for the Kampuchean side by Min Saman, a member of the Central Committee of the Revolutionary Party of the Kampuchean People.

A protocol of cooperation was signed in Kabul day before yesterday between the PDPA and the United Workers' Party of Poland.

Mahmud Bariyalai, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee of the PDPA signed on behalf of the PDPA while Stanislaw Opalku, member of the Politburo of his party signed on behalf of the United Workers' Party of Poland.

AFGHANISTAN

SOVIETS ATTACK QANDAHAR

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Feb 85 pp 1, 2

[Text]

NEW DELHI, India, Jan. 20 (Dispatches) — Soviet forces attacked the old city of Kandahar for four consecutive days this month in reprisal for the killing of 12 Afghan army men by the Mujahideen, Western diplomatic sources reported Tuesday.

The diplomats also reported that three helicopters were shot down in Kandahar, Afghanistan's second largest city. The helicopters were hit during the Feb. 4-8 siege of the old sector or later.

Fighting, meanwhile, flared anew last week in the capital of Kabul, Soviet MI-24 helicopter gunships killed an undetermined number of people during the raids on nearby villages, the diplomats said.

Heavy street shooting reportedly broke out before dawn on Feb. 11 near the Afghan Defense Ministry in Kabul's Darul Aman district.

The diplomats said the Soviet attack on Kandahar was in reprisal for a Mujahideen attack near the eastern

town in which 12 Afghan military officials were slain.

The sources said some residential areas of the old city — a Mujahideen stronghold — were bombed. Casualties, if any, were not known.

The diplomats gave no further information on the siege.

Three Afghan soldiers were reported killed, six wounded and one was captured Feb. 13 in a Mujahideen ambush at Rishkor on the main highway south of Kabul.

At Rokha, in the strategic Panjsher Valley, about 200 Afghan government soldiers defected to the Mujahideen last week, the diplomatic accounts said.

The reports said three helicopters unloading Soviet troops were hit by rockets fired by the Muslim freedom fighters who encircled the Kakarak Base in Ghazni Province, southeastern Afghanistan. Casualties in the brief siege — broken by Soviet helicopter reinforcements — were not known.

AFGHANISTAN

JUDICIARY OFFICIAL GIVES VIEWS ON LAW ENFORCEMENT, SUPERVISION

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 27 Jan 85 p 2

[Interview with Engineer Abdolmajid Eskandari, governor of Takhar Province, who was in Kabul for the PDPA anniversary celebrations; date not specified]

[Text] Question: Could you tell us something about the role and the effectiveness of the law of local organs of government authority and administration in the social and political life of the country?

Answer: Basic changes took place in the lives of the toilers of our country following the victory of the Sawr Revolution and especially its new and evolutionary stage, this is reflected in the plenums of the Central Committee of the PDPA and the decrees and regulations of the government aimed at improving the living conditions of toilers, transformation of the economic situation, the cultural-educational growth of fellow-brother nationalities of our country, the strengthening of the revolutionary rule, expanding the mass-oriented concept of the Sawr Revolution to the utmost and finally giving administrative power to its true heirs, in effect the toiling masses of the country.

I must say that one of the revolutionary decisions of the party and the DRA government, in present conditions when we are facing an undeclared war and must use our energies in the defense of our honor and our land to sever the bloody hands of internal counterrevolution and crafty international imperialism, it is through the law of local organs of government authority and administration that the new administrative system in which people determine their own destiny, has taken root; this is because the national and democratic Sawr Revolution will attain total victory when it depends on the masses, the majority of our fellow-citizens come to believe in the righteousness of the revolution and share in firming the authority of the revolutionary government.

In addition to what was said above, there are also other reasons which require change in the system of government administration, i.e. 1) the expansion of the responsibilities of local offices; 2) the appointment of representatives of local organs of government authority in various localities; 3) such local organs of government authority and administration constituting as they do the foundation stone of the national and democratic revolution; 4) local organs of government authority and administration which can play a determining and

basic role in mobilizing the toilers of the country and be an effective means in the hands of the revolution, party and government in attaining this aspiration; 5) with the prerogatives delegated to these organs under the new law, they can make constructive and appropriate decisions regarding local economic and social growth, the system of education and training, the growth of local cultures and the establishment of security in localities by clear-cut solutions to the problems and needs of the local people.

Question: What measures have been taken to date in strengthening government authority in Takhar Province and in what administrative units is government authority in force?

Answer: The joint provincial center, which is the highest authoritative government organ on the provincial level, is responsible for a complex plan for strengthening government authority. As a result of tireless efforts of the staff members of the joint center, under the direction of the provincial party leadership and its executive bureau, greater achievements have been obtained for the party on the provincial level.

Up to 1984, 2,100 individuals had joined the party, 280 had joined the revolution corps, 423 persons had signed up as "Defenders of the Revolution", 2,409 had joined the trade union, 4,322 the ranks of the National Fatherland Front, 1,183 had become members of the Organization of Democratic Youth and 243 the Organization of Democratic Women.

In this province 103 villages have been cleansed from the presence of counterrevolution elements, 1,501 tons wheat and 500,000 afghani in cash have been distributed among the needy and 23 new schools have been opened where 6,080 students are being taught by 278 teachers. Also in the current year 2,981 persons are being taught in 196 literacy courses by 106 voluntary teachers. In the 6 months of this year, government receipts came to 93,768,141 afghani, an increase of 4,696,739 afghani when compared with the plan.

Twenty-two mosques have been renovated, 300 persons have received plots of land for building homes and its airport is 70 percent complete.

During the spring campaign 3,308 tons of chemical fertilizer and seed were distributed among farmers of whom 593 received their land ownership deed.

State Security units and tribal squads were formed and during the year 2,110 persons joined the armed forces. It can be said that government authority rules throughout Takhar Province.

Question: Please tell us what measures you have in mind for setting up local organs of government authority in this province?

Answer: According to the plan of the provincial party council, in the first 6 months of the year [ending 22 September 1984] political units were organized in all administrative centers and institutions and the goals and benefits

of the national and democratic revolution was expounded for residents, trades people, religious scholars and leaders and members of the National Fatherland Front by responsible party and government representatives at gatherings and meetings. Also tribal assemblies were set up and people were made aware of the need for discussion and consultation.

As part of the celebration of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, we carried out task force work in our district and one subdistrict and set up tribal assemblies in all villages.

From what we have been able to gather from our contacts and discussions with people, they welcome the legislation and fully support it.

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CSO: 4665/38

AFGHANISTAN

RESISTANCE LEADER DEPLORES LACK OF WESTERN AID

Paris LE QUOTIDIEN DE PARIS in French No 1636, 25 Feb 85 p 21

[Interview with Abdul Haq, date, place not specified]

[Text]

A 27 ans, Abdul Haq est sans doute le plus jeune des « commandants de l'intérieur » qui écrivent aujourd'hui l'histoire de l'Afghanistan. Douze ans de pratique de la lutte armée (à plusieurs reprises, son jeune âge lui a permis d'échapper au peloton d'exécution) lui ont permis de s'imposer comme le chef de la résistance à Kaboul et dans sa région où il peut mobiliser jusqu'à 5 000 hommes.

Membre du Hezbi Islami de Yunus Khalès, il était la semaine dernière à Paris à l'occasion du « jumelage » entre la ville de Paghman proche de Kaboul et Antony.

LE QUOTIDIEN. — Certaines informations font état d'une diminution des opérations de la résistance à Kaboul. Qu'en est-il réellement ?

Abdul HAQ. — Ce sont des nouvelles diffusées par divers milieux diplomatiques à Islamabad, lesquels ne disposent pas toujours des meilleures sources de renseignements. La plupart du temps, les informations dont ils disposent, sont celles fournies par des ambassades à Kaboul. Or les diplomates ne peuvent pas circuler librement dans la capitale afghane, il leur est donc impossible de voir exactement ce qui se passe. Il faut que certaines de nos roquettes s'égarent dans les jardins des dites ambassades pour qu'elles fassent état de nos activités ! Je peux vous dire que nous ne relâ-

chons pas notre pression. Ainsi depuis le début de l'année, nous avons coupé à quatre ou cinq reprises le courant à Kaboul, mené quatre opérations dans la capitale même et régulièrement attaqué des convois de ravitaillement. Toutes les attaques d'envergure menées à Kaboul et dans sa région sont l'œuvre de mes combattants.

Q. — Lors de votre conférence de presse, vous avez lancé un appel qui était presque un SOS. Avez-vous dramatisé pour tenter de sensibiliser les Occidentaux ou bien la résistance est-elle vraiment menacée dans son existence même ?

A. H. — Le combat est effectivement de plus en plus difficile parce que la disproportion des moyens entre les Soviétiques et nous ne cesse d'augmenter. Cela ne veut pas dire pour autant qu'ils vont réussir à nous anéantir. Au-delà d'un certain stade, l'augmentation des effectifs n'a plus d'influence véritable sur leur efficacité.

Q. — Toujours au cours de cette conférence de presse, vous n'avez pas épargné les pays occidentaux et notamment la France. Qu'en attendez-vous concrètement ?

A. H. — Avant cette conférence de presse, j'ai tenu à préciser que j'étais un combattant et non un diplomate. Je dis donc les choses crûment sans me réfugier derrière les subtilités du langage. Depuis cinq ans, les Occidentaux nous encouragent du verbe, c'est tout. Des paroles, jamais d'actes. Ils n'ont jamais exercé de pressions diplomatiques ou économiques suffisantes sur les Soviétiques. Ils sont nos « amis », mais le commerce va bon train avec

l'URSS.

Ce que nous demandons, c'est avant tout une pression ferme, durable et d'envergure sur les Soviétiques et aussi une aide humanitaire qui n'est jusqu'à présent dispensée que par des organisations indépendantes. Si j'en crois la Marseillaise, « la liberté guide (vos) pas », on aimerait bien qu'elle les guide jusqu'à nous.

Q. — Ne croyez-vous pas que les pays occidentaux soutiendraient plus facilement les différents partis de la résistance si ceux-ci mettaient un terme à leurs incessantes querelles ?

A. H. — *Le problème se pose à deux niveaux : à l'intérieur même de l'Afghanistan et au sein des partis de Peshawar. Sur le terrain, la coopération est très bonne entre les commandants mais l'unité politique nécessaire reste à faire à Peshawar. Cela dit, avancer cette explication pour justifier les réticences des pays occidentaux est trop facile. Ils ont trouvé un prétexte pour ne pas intervenir ; même si tous les mouvements de la résistance se fondaient en une seule organisation et parlaient d'une même voix, ceux qui ne nous ont jamais aidés trouveraient autre chose pour rester à l'écart.*

Cet engagement dépend avant tout d'une volonté politique qui n'existe pas encore. Le jour où elle sera suffisamment forte, alors ces pays nous aideront, quels que soient les rapports entre nos différents partis.

Q. — Certains milieux de la résistance font état d'un prochain remplacement du président Babrak Kar-

mal par l'actuel ministre de la Défense, le général Nazar Muhammad. Qu'en pensez-vous ?

A. H. — *Ce n'est pas la première fois que des rumeurs circulent sur l'éviction de Karmal. J'ai l'impression qu'elles sont répandues directement par les milieux gouvernementaux mais je ne sais vraiment pas dans quel but. Quoi qu'il en soit, cela ne me semble pas très sérieux.*

Q. — Les Soviétiques et le gouvernement de Kaboul cherchent à éliminer les « commandants » les plus populaires. Leurs tentatives pour abattre Massoud (1) ont jusqu'à présent échoué, mais Radio-Kaboul a confirmé jeudi dernier la mort de Zabiullah (2). Avez-vous déjà été victime de tentatives d'assassinat ?

A. H. — *Dans un premier temps, ils ont essayé de m'acheter. L'an dernier, ils m'ont proposé 27 millions d'afghanis (3) en échange d'une trêve.*

Un jour de la semaine dernière, je devais me rendre à mon quartier général vers 9 heures du matin. Pour je ne sais plus quelle raison, j'ai avancé mon arrivée de dix minutes. C'est mon adjoint, le commandant Wahadat qui s'est présenté à l'heure prévue. Arrivé sur le pas de la porte, il a été atteint de quatre balles. Il est aujourd'hui à l'hôpital.

**Propos recueillis par
Yves CORNU**

(1) *Chef de la résistance dans le Panchir, membre du Jamiat Islami.*

(2) *Chef de la résistance dans la région de Mazar i Charif, membre du Jamiat Islami.*

(3) *1 afghani = 0,10 F.*

AFGHANISTAN

BUILDING PROJECTS COMPLETED ON PDPA'S ANNIVERSARY

Kabul ANIS in Dari 9 Jan 85 p 1

/Text/ Kabul Construction Unit was established in 1340 /21 March 1961-20 March 1962/ to undertake construction of administrative, industrial and cultural buildings for government offices and institutions and especially to compete with foreign construction companies which had had a monopoly on such activities. It began its activities in 1344 /21 March 1965-20 March 1966/ as a profit-oriented government operation with an initial capital of 300 million afghani and by 20 March 1984 it had carried out government construction valued at 8,028 million afghani.

A source at the Construction Unit who explained the foregoing, had this to say in answer to a question from the ANIS correspondent: This unit has various plants for gravel washing, stonecutting, and carpentry that produce sufficient materials needed for projects as well as to supply and sell such material to private institutions and individuals. It should be noted that targeted projects for the 9 months ending 21 December 1984 have been completed 118 percent and construction of 30 projects are under way.

In answer to another question, the source said: In honor of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, Afghan Construction Unit organized voluntary work from 23 October until the end of 1984 on the basis of half an hour on working days and 3 hours during weekends and holidays, thus earning 255,000 afghani for our revolutionary government. It has also started intensified operations in five projects of the capital and is determined to have three other projects ready for use.

The source added: Also to mark the PDPA anniversary, Afghan Construction Unit has finished and readied the following seven projects for use: The first part and part of the second phase of the project of the Social Sciences building located in Afshar of Kabul that is related to the PDPA Central Committee, second chamber of Kabul pressure water cistern with a capacity of 5,000 cubic meters, the third stage of the Kamaz project of the Ministry of Transportation located behind the airport, road and airport building living quarters in Balkh, repair of the silo elevator in Mazar-e Sharif, lodgings for single workers and employees and Ma'dan-e Kar Kar of Pol-e Khomri.

The source said in conclusion: The Afghan Construction Unit hopes to serve the country and citizens even better in carrying out development plans.

AFGHANISTAN

TWO HUNDRED LIVING QUARTERS CREATED IN KABUL

Kabul ANIS in Dari 11 Jan 85 p 2

/Text/ In honor of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA, Kabul City Council of the National Fatherland Front has enrolled 5,130 individual members in the front as part of an intensified program and created 200 local residential councils in villages and localities of Kabul city's 11 sectors.

The first deputy of the Kabul Council of the National Fatherland Front recounted a series of successes attained by his council in honor of the PDPA anniversary by saying: In November-December 1984, 11 political orientation gatherings were held to explain the goals and the 20-year struggles of the PDPA, 920 persons were enrolled in 104 literacy courses and books were provided to 242 persons to enable them to pursue their studies at home.

He added: Also in honor of this auspicious occasion, the council has carried out a series of useful jobs such as 15 occasions of voluntary collective work in 11 sectors of the Fatherland Front in Kabul involving 1,440 people which earned the front 100,000 afghani. Also, 3,496 afghani were also earned by the front as a result of a collective productive work. Moreover, a deep well was sunk in the 2nd precinct, 250 public drinking water supply faucets were installed in the 11th sector of Kabul and 20,000 afghani spent in extensions of drinking water pipes in the sector. In addition, 32 children lacking guardians were referred to the Watan Orphanage and 26 persons needing medical attention were sent to various clinics of the city.

The Kabul Council has also distributed among families of martyrs of the revolution clothes and cash valued at 50,000 afghani and cash help to the needy. And 30 needy and deserving individuals were referred to the Red Crescent to get help.

The first deputy of the Kabul Council of the National Fatherland Front said in conclusion: In honor of this occasion, we have set up a peasants' council in Bibi Mehru of the 10th sector and intend to do the same in various localities of Kabul City in future.

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CSO: 4665/26

AFGHANISTAN

RETIREMENT SALARIES PAID TO 40,000 RETIREES

Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 8 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] The Retirement Fund Office which handles the payments for government retirees, has given good service and provided many conveniences for them. We bring you portions of a discussion with an official of the abovementioned government office regarding functions of the office.

At the start of his remarks, the official of the Retirement Fund Office referred specifically to measures taken by the agency in anticipation of the 20th founding anniversary of the PDPA and responded thus to a question: In line with the lofty goals of the Sawr Revolution and specially its new and evolutionary phase and despite the very limited organizational scope of the office, employees of the Retirement Fund Office with friendly and patriotic spirit and, in cooperation with the Computer Center, have exerted special effort to get things ready for the distribution of retirement checks for 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986], such unprecedented measures comprising: the procurement of computer products and the entry of information on 10,400 civilian retirees into the computer system; procurement of computer products and the entry of data from the master list of 7,082 military retirees into the computer system; procurement of computer products and the entry of data from the master list of 3,000 civilian and military family members and survivors, determination of new pay scales; transfer to 25 provinces of the country the eligibility of retirees and survivors as per their request, periodic remittances of civilian and military survivor benefits as well as voluntary collective work and the setting up of literacy courses with the cooperation of primary organization and the guilds federation of the office. Asked about the number of retirees receiving monthly and/or annual pay, the source replied: More than 10,000 retirees and survivors receive benefits on a monthly basis while more than 30,000 retirees and survivors receive lump sum payments each year.

He was asked how much money is to be paid out to retirees this year and what amount has been paid up to now. He said: Expenditures for benefits to retirees and survivors in 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] total some 1,350 million afghani of which 1,200 million afghani were paid out in the first 9 months of the current year ending [21 December 1984].

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CSO: 4665/22

AFGHANISTAN

JOWZJAN LAND REFORM CONTINUES

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 30 Jan 85 p 2

/Text/ Work on the implementation of the second phase of democratic land reform by responsible officials in Jowzjan is rapidly and seriously under way. After gaining ownership rights to the land and cultivating it, the hard-working farmers of Jowzjan have begun a fresh life.

An informed source of the provincial party committee of Jowzjan made the following statement to the correspondent of HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Shibarghan: "At the present time four groups of officials in charge of the implementation of the second phase of land reform are busy throughout Jowzjan Province. During the first nine months of the current year, a total of 4,154 official land titles have been distributed among the needy farmers of this province. This figure shows an increase of 16 percent over the predicted plan for the same period."

The same source added: "In a nine month period an equivalent of 29,314 hectares of top quality and cultivable land in the villages of Shibarghan, Alaqahdari, Mardian, and the districts of Aqcheh of the province of Jowzjan were distributed by the officials in charge of the implementation of land reform. In the same period 11 farmers' committees were formed in the villages of Jowzjan to coordinate land reform activities. 338,731 afghanis were collected from the sale of evaluation forms and mapping and surveying services."

The same source also noted that from the beginning of the activities of the officials in the province of Jowzjan until the ninth month of the current year, on the average a total of 6,343 title deeds have been distributed among poor or farmers who did not own land. Furthermore, he indicated that the project of land distribution is still continuing.

AFGHANISTAN

LAND SAID TO BELONG TO THOSE WHO 'TOIL' ON IT

Kabul ANIS in Dari 31 Jan 85 p 2

/Text/ The general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) Central Committee and the president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA) Revolutionary Council in a gathering of cotton growers clearly stated: Land belongs to those who toil on it, this is our main motto and the final ideal of our party--the party which is at your service, the PDPA; it is the slogan of the government of the DRA that is your government--this has always been a motto of your government and always will be.

With full understanding of the prevalent situation and condition of the country, the PDPA and its leadership strive to achieve this national and momentous ideal. Having the interests of the farmers in mind, they have decidedly continued to carry out complete and healthy democratic land and water reform. In order to achieve such a goal, all the pertinent party and government organs have been duly informed of their responsibilities.

The president of the Council of Ministers of the DRA during his discussions with the experts stated: "The PDPA Central Committee and the government of the DRA have put into effect important resolutions concerning the coordination of the implementation of land and water reform. It is under the leadership of Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council that the Central Committee takes the necessary measures to coordinate the implementation of land and water reform. In the ratified legal documents, with due regard to the interests of the hard-working farmers of various regions, proper measures have been taken in order to successfully coordinate the implementation of water and land reform. Of course, due consideration has been given to all the possibilities for an increase in the production of crops, cotton, fruit, vegetables and animal products."

Under the guidance of Babrak Karmal, the main cause of the public problem (as regards the coordination of the land project), has been investigated in the PDPA Central Committee and the Council of Ministers of the DRA. As a result, in the legal documents concerning the distribution of land and other pertinent affairs, some modifications have taken place which guarantee the interests of the hard-working peasants. These new modifications exempt the farmers from paying various

property taxes. Other appropriate measures concerning the enhancement of the conditions of land distribution among the hard-working farmers have also been adopted. Among these measures is the exemption of farmers from frequent payments. Furthermore, upon recommendations of the Farmers' Council and the approval by relevant government authorities, the hard-working peasants can be given an equivalent of 30 acres of prime cultivable land.

Official sources and the mass media of the PDPA and the DRA government have pointed out that in order to expedite and facilitate land reform and eliminate the process of subdividing the orchards and vineyards, some modifications have been made in the 8th amendment to the land reform. According to this modification, the farmers are exempt from paying 20 afghanis for each acre of prime land within the tax limit. Likewise, they will be exempt from paying 500 afghanis for each additional acre of land and its registration fee. In a similar fashion, they will be exempt from paying 7,500 afghanis for the transfer of each additional acre of land. The people who did not have proper or basic documents for more than 10 acres of land have been exempted from all taxes. Consequently, the people who previously owned 30 or more acres of prime land but did not have the pertinent documents, are allowed to keep possession of 30 acres of land or its equivalent.

As regards the solution to land and agricultural problems, the PDPA pays particular attention to the matter of financial and material assistance to farmers, especially the peasants who do not have enough land for cultivation or those who did not possess land and have recently become landowner after the implementation of land reform.

With due regard to the fundamental points of the program of action, the land distribution policy of the PDPA is based on the proper use of financial and material possibilities. These include the distribution of chemical fertilizers, crop seed, farm machinery and other necessary equipment. It is appropriate that the farmers' councils and the related committees have a more active role in solving the problems which concern the implementation of land and water reform.

In order to help the farmers and create favorable conditions after the completion of the new phase of the April revolution, some useful and beneficial measures have been taken into consideration. These include: four tenths of three million farmer families or those who owned some land have been exempted from paying 22 million afghanis which was owed to the government as property taxes. Similarly, the price of chemical fertilizer was reduced 20 percent. Likewise, the price of cotton and sugar beets were increased by 80 and 70 percent respectively. In addition to the matter of the implementation of land and water reform or the material and financial assistance to the farmer, the PDPA has paid particular attention to the issue of farmers' cooperatives.

Following the party program of action, according to government plans, at the present time the development of land and water reform is carried out by the farmers themselves in all the provinces of the country. It is through the efforts of the peasants that new canals and subterranean channels have been built and some deep wells have been dug in order to diversify and expand the existing water resources.

In order to increase and improve the level of animal products, particular attention has been paid to the improvement of pasture lands. Similarly, government veterinary services will be expanded. According to the program of action of the party, farm machinery, chemical fertilizers, improved seed and livestock will be made available from the available government credits to the farmers and livestock breeders at reasonable rates or at no cost when necessary.

Furthermore, the hard-working nomads are given necessary help in order to live wherever they choose. The nomadic population in our country is very high--in fact, they comprise about 417,000 families. Obviously, they all cannot discontinue their nomadic life at once. In order to help these people, in this regard, according to the program of action of the party of the PDPA, cooperatives for the sale of land and livestock and animal products will be established.

Gradually some land will be distributed among the nomads and low interest loans and government credit will be provided to them so that they will be able to build homes and their principal buildings. Short- and long-term programs will gradually be put into effect for bettering the living conditions of the nomads. It is intended that several water wells will be dug along the migration route of the nomads in order to prevent the death of many animals and provide necessary potable water. Furthermore, veterinary services will be made available and important measures for the improvement of the pasture lands will be considered. Of course, medical and educational services comprise part of the program.

As has been proven through many life experiences, it is easy to overcome many difficulties through collective efforts. Therefore, new cooperatives will be set up for the sale of farm products and the existing cooperatives will be duly strengthened. These cooperatives will be given necessary assistance in the area of the sale of farm products or the purchase of industrial equipment, foodstuffs or other needed merchandise. The number of liquidating or amortizable cooperatives will be increased in the villages.

Surplus land and the land owned by the royal family will be distributed among the nomads and the hard-working farmers, so that the land will be owned by those who toil on it. The same thing will be done with the newly cultivated properties. In other areas pilot projects will be carried out on extra land which is assigned to farming. In like manner, health, cultural and educational centers will be set up in sub-provincial districts. Similarly, with due regard to the peculiarities of a particular region, literacy courses will be offered in all parts of the country so that our toiling workers could be delivered from this fatal or devastating disease of illiteracy.

AFGHANISTAN

FARMERS DISCUSS PDPA ACHIEVEMENTS

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 14 Jan 1985 p 8

[Text] As the goals of the party have been implemented in our nation, farmers who have understood the party's aims are forming a ring around the party and the social organizations.

Comrade Mohammad Hosseyn is a farmer from the village of Kandiwal in Ghowr Province that has come to Kabul to participate in the great ceremony celebrating in glorious fashion the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the PDPA. Speaking with DEHQAN's correspondent, he said:

The sole path in which I saw improvement of the life of the nation's toiling people was the doctrine of the PDPA. Thus in 1984 I had the honor of joining the PDPA. The toiling people of Kandiwal Village, having understood the aims of the party, from 1980 onwards have taken up arms and are defending the achievements of the revolution and their village.

In 1983-1984 the first party organization was formed in our village, whose members included 15 farmers and 8 other toilers from the village. Furthermore a youth organization with 27 youths, a women's organization with 6 women, and a trade union with 58 persons were formed.

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the PDPA's founding, four farmers were accepted to the party on a trial basis, and three of them have been promoted to basic membership. In addition, a group of people interested in the party, composed of 21 persons of whom 13 are farmers, has been formed.

In our village there is an agricultural cooperative composed of 65 farmers, 32 of whom have newly joined agricultural cooperatives on the party's twentieth anniversary. Also eight literacy students received certificates of literacy on this occasion. Similarly, other voluntary work has started up to welcome the PDPA's twentieth anniversary, such as cleaning the qanat, digging a village well, and constructing two dikes. Six persons have volunteered for military service. Comrade Muhammad Huseyn added:

Through implementation of the second phase of democratic land reforms in Kandiwal Village, so far deeds of land ownership have been distributed to 65 families. The Village Farmers Council, which is composed of 11 village

farmers, resolves land transaction problems, and the village farmers Komiteh, headed by the water monitor, settles water problems.

In accordance with the Local Organs Law, a Local Council has been formed in Kandiwal Village which solves all litigations, dealings and issues of mutual relation of the village people. Our village's local council is composed of seven persons, with two deputies and four other members under the leadership of the council president, and they carry out the council's work. The members of the local council were selected by the village residents in a free atmosphere. Defense of the village and the prevention of sabotage by rebels is all done by adoption of council policies. Mowlawi Muhammad Mostafa, one of the village clergy, acts as the council judge and examines Islamic legal issues.

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CSO: 4665/30

AFGHANISTAN

FARMERS MOBILIZED AROUND AGRICULTURAL COOPERATIVES

Kabul KEYWAD in Dari 30 Jan p 4

/Text/ The importance of the growth and development of the cooperative movement in comparison with the democratic land reform and the mechanization of agriculture should not be taken lightly. The formation of agricultural cooperatives by the farmers is going to bind this productive and hard-working class of citizens together and at the same time will play a significant role in enhancing their political awareness. On the other hand, with the formation of cooperatives, the farmers will find an opportunity to provide for their farming or agricultural needs or will be able to find favorable markets to present their surplus products to the general public. Having the interests of the farmers in mind, after the victory of the glorious April revolution, along with the start of the democratic land reforms, more serious attention has been paid to the matter of the growth and development of the cooperative movement in the country. The establishment of farmers' cooperatives has helped bring about beneficial measures. This project has been successful so far and every day we witness the formation of new cooperatives for peasants in our country. In 1362 /21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984/ the Farmers' Cooperative Union of the DRA established 36 agricultural cooperatives throughout the country.

Nearly 21 agricultural cooperatives, which were idle for certain reasons, have now started their activities once more and are ready to serve the farmers of the nation. Therefore, we can see that the cooperative movement in the country has faced astonishing transformations. It is through the expansion and development of such cooperatives that our farmers can achieve better results, and also help fortify our national economy.

AFGHANISTAN

LAND, WATER REFORM INTENSIFIES ACROSS NATION

Kabul HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR in Dari 8 Jan 85 p 2

[Text] Given present conditions in the country, the agricultural-animal husbandry-forestry sector is considered a basic foundation of the economy, with values of products derived from this sector being a major part of the national economy.

Extensive human resources are involved in this sector which provides the means of living for some 85 percent of the country's population. Since any positive change in this sector would mean positive changes in the living conditions of the majority of society and the enhancement of other areas of the economy, it can be said that agriculture is the master key to the next-phase growth and development of the country and that serious attention should be paid to agricultural development and increased farm output.

The PDPA, as the sole vanguard of society, true protector of the interests of workers, peasants and other toilers of the country and armed with the scientific revolutionary theory based carefully on the country's socio-economic situation, has made it clear that the elimination of the decrepit vestiges of feudalism and increase in the level of agricultural output which requires land and water reforms, mechanization of farming and widespread scientific use of chemical fertilizers and improved seeds, is the only way to agricultural development.

With the victory of the Sawr Revolution and particularly its new and evolutionary phase which opened a new chapter in the history of the country, peasants became free of feudal oppression and despotism and usury, advance borrowings and mortgaging came to an end.

As a result of democratic land and water reforms more than 300,000 toiling peasants received free land and feudalism in the country was totally eliminated for all time.

Parallel with land and water reforms, efforts were intensified to organize peasants into farm cooperatives. All peasants, especially those who had become owners of land in the course of land reforms, benefited from material and moral help such as loans and the provision of chemical fertilizers, improved seeds and agricultural machinery. Peasant councils were created to

settle inter-peasant disputes. Put briefly, deep qualitative and fundamental transformations took place in the life of peasants and rural areas.

But up until now the level of agricultural output has been very low and yield per jarib on a low scale. The reasons for this can be found in ancient customary irrigation, use of customary outmoded tools, the lack of all peasants being organized into cooperatives, lack of use of modern machinery and, in the final analysis, the illiteracy of the peasant classes.

Despite difficulties and problems, the PDPA believe Afghanistan's backwardness and the lack of substantial growth are temporary and the result of long-time feudalistic dominance and it is determined to up the level of agricultural production as rapidly as possible in order that, on the one hand, to improve the living conditions of toilers and especially the peasants who form the majority of the population and, on the other hand, to change the country's agriculture into a mechanized, modern and developed farming that are essential for increasing yield per jarib coupled with the utilization of farm lands and available human resources, by introducing modern farming methods, agricultural machinery, agrotechnology, farm loans, creation of farming cooperatives and peasant councils.

Thus, in order to modernize and mechanize farming and provide the needs of peasants of the country, 5 mechanized farming stations have been created in the provinces of Kabul, Baghlan, Balkh, Jawzjan and Herat, and 4 modern mechanized agricultural units in the provinces of Samangan, Ghazni, Kundez and Farah which have all kinds of machinery at their disposal such as tractors, combines, cultivators, seed spreaders, orchard fertilizer spreaders, chicken hatcheries, and so on.

Even though the machinery at these stations in Kabul and the provinces is made available to peasants at insignificant cost, the national farmers' conference decided on a 20 percent reduction in the rentals of such machinery as a further help to peasants of government farms and members of farm cooperatives—measures which would encourage the organization of peasants into agricultural cooperatives and the use of modern farming tools.

5854
CSO: 4665/28

AFGHANISTAN

LAND OWNERSHIP DEEDS DISTRIBUTED AMONG FARMERS

Kabul ANIS in Dari 10 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] With the continuation of the second-phase program of land reform and the fair distribution of water, 522 peasants of the subdistrict of Mardian and the district of Aqcheh received their land ownership deeds during the second and third quarters of the year [22 June 1984-21 December 1984].

A source also added that as a result of the tireless efforts of employees of the land and water reform operational group no. 38, during the same period second-phase work was started and is continuing for the distribution of 6,328 jarib [acre] of land.

The source noted in conclusion: During the same period peasants committees and peasants councils were also created in the villages of Mardian Khan, Arigh Fathabad and Torq Qaleh of the Mardian subdistrict.

Also, 43 families of peasants with little or no land in the above mentioned area of the administrative area of Farah province recently became land owners.

During title deed distribution ceremonies at the abovementioned village, two persons representing farmers expressed gratitude for progressive measures taken by their revolutionary government and expressed readiness to defend the benefits brought by the Sawr Revolution in every way.

An official of the Agriculture and Land Reform Department of Farah Province said: In the past 9 months 320 land ownership deeds were distributed among 292 needy peasant families in that province.

According to another news source, 320 land deeds were recently distributed among farmers with little or no land at a ceremony in the village of Shirabad in the district of Nahr-e Shahi in Balkh Province.

During the ceremony in which a large number of people of the village took part, a number of peasants who were among recipients of the deeds spoke on behalf of the others--expressing gratitude for the good and humane actions of the party and government and expressed readiness for any sacrifice in the defense of the country, the people, the revolution, and in the realization of the high and progressive goals of the party and the government.

AFGHANISTAN

DEMONSTRATIONS AGAINST OCCUPATION

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 21 Feb 85 p 2

[Text1

MASHHAD, Khorassan Pr., Feb. 22 (IRNA) — A large number of Afghan Muslim Mujahideen and refugees residing here, staged a demonstration Friday marking the anniversary of the bloody uprising of the people of Kabul against the Soviet occupiers.

In a resolution issued at the end of this ceremony condemning the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, it was said that the Islamic Revolution, led by Imam Khomeini, is a major event in the history of Islam.

Warning the Soviet occupiers, the resolution said: "We demand an unconditional withdrawal of the Soviet forces from Afghanistan and we will fight for Islam and the Islamic Revolution till the last drop of our blood."

CSO: 4600/313

AFGHANISTAN

OLIVE CANNING FACTORY INAUGURATED

Kabul DEHQAN in Dari 7 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] After the documents of delivery were turned over to the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform by Comrade Hassan Peyman, the chief of the State Commission, Comrade Lakanwal then turned the documents over to the head of the factory. Then Lakanwal gave a speech in which he gave the factory's workers and officials the best wishes of Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, and congratulated the factory's officials on the factory's inauguration.

The factory has the capacity to produce 8,000 tons of canned olives and olive oil annually, and its construction and installation were paid for out of a 470,000 ruble credit from the friendly country of the Soviet Union on the basis of an agreement between the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform and the Soviet Solkhoz Prom Export Organization.

The olive factory, occupying 705 hectares, saw ground-breaking ceremonies in 1976-1977. According to the plan, the finishing work on the factory was to be completed by the end of the current year. However, the construction and installation work was completed by mid-year due to the extra-effort work by Afghan and Soviet engineers and technicians to welcome the twentieth anniversary of the founding of the PDPA. The factory was officially inaugurated 25 December 1984. DEHQAN's field correspondent reports:

At the state of the celebration, Amerzun Sharq spoke about the work and labor by the workers, engineers and project technicians who patriotically completed work on the olive factory prior to plan in order to welcome the twentieth anniversary of the PDPA's founding. He expressed his appreciation to them.

Then the deputy Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform spoke about the role of this project, and said:

Today we are inaugurating the biggest production factory in honor of the twentieth anniversary of the PDPA's founding. This factory, which was built as a result of the untiring labors of Afghan and Soviet experts with the help of credits from the Soviet Union, has revitalized work conditions for a great number of workers.

Then a message from the toiling people of Nangarhar Province was read by the chief of Trade Union Provincial Council. The message sent its congratulations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the PDPA's founding, and expressed its complete readiness to realize the party's aims for the country's prosperity.

A number of the advance-guard workers who performed tireless work in completing the factory were honored with letters of commendation from the Minister of Agriculture and Land Reform.

One olive canning factory source told DEHQAN's correspondent: The building of the new olive factory is based on the increased olive crop from the Nangarhar Valley Development Project. The construction, aided by the friendly government of the Soviet Union, cost 559.6 million afghans. Of this amount, 27.5 million afghans were spent on the assembly and construction of the factory, 245 million afghans on the equipment, and 341 million afghans for other factory expenses.

The construction of the new olive factory was completed in accordance with specified standards and has gone into operation. The following sections will be finished by the end of the year and become operational: oil-pressing, can manufacture, completion of the boiler vats, installation of the canning equipment for fruit and vegetables, pickling, juice-making, ice-making, cold storage and other factory equipment.

So far 112 vats of the 240 have been completed, and 2,000 tons of canned olives are produced annually.

The source added: The Nangarhar Valley Development Project has been built with the help of the friendly country of the Soviet Union. The project has brought vast tracts of untitled land under irrigation and has transformed them into flourishing citrus orchards. In addition to producing an enormous citrus crop, the project has improved the region's climate. Alongside the income from the citrus fruit crop, an income of 308 million dollars has been gained from the export of 3,922 tons of canned olives during the period from 1971-1972 to 1978-1979.

9597

CSO: 4665/30

AFGHANISTAN

BRIEFS

MECHANIZED EQUIPMENTS FOR FARMERS--The revolutionary government of the DRA is giving its utmost serious attention to the mechanization of farming alongside the progress of democratic land reforms benefiting peasants with little or no land and aimed at increasing agricultural output and in insuring the utmost welfare of farmers. Thus the Agricultural Mechanization Authority was set up in 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] under the Ministry of Agriculture and Land Reform to change ancient farming methods to modern ones. The Authority began work with an initial funding of 67 million afghani by the government and 11,041 million clearing dollars from Soviet credit, using the capital to import agricultural machinery and to set up 7 mechanized farming stations, equipped with mechanized facilities to serve the peasants. These stations have such machinery as tractors, bulldozers, combines, cranes, etc. that serve farmers on 90-minute periods according to fixed rental fees. [Text] [Kabul HEYWAD in Dari 18 Jan 85 p 2] 5854

CSO: 4665/22

BANGLADESH

REPORTER DEPLORES FREQUENT CABINET RESHUFFLES

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Frequent shuffling of Ministers from one Ministry or division to another in recent time has had an unsettling effect among the officials.

Each Minister has his own way of dealing with things. Ministers also take time to establish rapport with the officials of the Ministry which is very important for smooth running of the affairs. But the rapport is snapped each time a Minister is changed.

The Ministry of Agriculture for instance, which is by all account a very sensitive Ministry so far as Bangladesh is concerned, has had four ministers including the present incumbent during the past three years under the present regime.

Education on the other hand which has been given the highest allocation in the current year's budget is without a Minister at the moment. The importance of education needs hardly be overemphasised. It had two ministers, Dr A. Majeed Khan and Mr Shamsul Huda Chowdhury.

The Information Ministry also had four ministers including the present incumbent during the past three years. The present incumbent, Mr A.R. Yusuf is also encumbered with two other equally important ministries, namely the law and parliamentary affairs and the civil aviation.

The Ministry of Law and Parliamentary Affairs assumes special significance under the prevailing political situation. It needs exclusive handling by a Minister.

Where there are no Ministers

The finance and foreign affairs do not have any Ministers now. These two Ministries are under two Advisers with the status of State Ministers. Since both the Ministries have to maintain external liaison it is imperative that these are headed by two full Ministers.

The placing of these two Ministries under full-fledged ministers will only indicate the importance attached to these Ministries. It is being speculated that the cabinet will be expanded. The cabinet is likely to have a woman Minister and a representative from the minority community.

The Ministers who have been loaded with more than one Ministries of diverse nature find it very difficult to cope with the volume of work. They fail to do justice to their assignments.

No Ministry was headed by the same person during the past three years. This is not the practice anywhere else in the world. Frequent changes break the continuity. The Ministry of Education, Ministry of Women Affairs and Ministry of Social Welfare and Ministry of Energy are without any Minister at present.

CSO: 4600/1341

BANGLADESH

ERSHAD DISCUSSES POLICY ON NEWS REPORTING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The President and Chief Martial Law Administrator, Lt. Gen. H. M. Ershad on Tuesday said that there was no room for individual opinion or personal likings and dislikings in the presentation of news objectively and impartially reports BSS.

He said the journalists were described as the "conscience keeper" of a nation and hence responsibility was of utmost importance in the professional role in journalism.

The President was inaugurating the fifth biennial conference of Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity--an organisation of mufassil journalists--at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in Dhaka.

Attended among others by the DCMLA's--Rear Admiral Sultan Ahmad and Air Vice-Marshall Sultan Mahmud and Ministers, the function was also addressed by the Information Minister, Mr. A. R. Yusuf, the President and the General Secretary of the association Mr. Safiuddin Ahmed and Mr. Gobinda Lal Das.

President Ershad said it was needless to say that journalism devoid of "responsibility" did only impair the image of journalism only.

He expressed the hope that being the conscious and alert section of the society, the people connected with the journalism would work for the establishment of truth and justice. The President said those journalists who were presenting news of the far-flung areas living in townships and villages could make significant contributions in the development of rural Bangladesh which was hubbing with uplift activities for the first time, with the decentralisation of administration and other reforms effected in socio-economic sectors by the present Government.

The President was confident that they would help for building a happy and prosperous new Bangladesh for the posterity by playing a proper welfare-role.

Turning to national elections scheduled for April 6 next, President Ershad said that a great enthusiasm and interest was being noticed in the people for elections. "Inshallah, the elections will be held as announced he said adding:

"you can play an effective role so that the people could exercise their right of franchise judiciously".

The President reiterated his Government's firm belief in the freedom of the Press and said there was no barrier in the free expression of information and opinion in the newspapers of the country. We have set up a rare example in the returning of newspaper to private ownership from Government control, he said adding: We are the first to constitute a Press Commission, recommendations of which are under active consideration of the Government.

In this connection he referred to the formation of Second Wage Board for the journalists and Government's complementary role in its implementation and observed that the recommended wage structures for the stringers were their due. He hoped that all concerned would take required steps in this regard.

Wishing success of the Bangladesh Sangbadik Samity in providing support to the development endeavour of the rural areas, President Ershad said the prospect of national uplift lay in the development of the villages. He said all the programmes of the Government was aimed at the welfare of greater multitude of the population including peasants workers and commonmen.

The President said the nation expected that while performing the responsibility journalists would keep themselves neutral. He told the conference that steps would be taken to form a welfare trust for the mufassil journalists.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. A. R. Yusuf stressed on the important role of journalists and freedom of journalism in the greater interest of a country and said that with that end in view the present Government had been doing everything possible to develop journalism and ensure a free Press.

The Information Minister hoped that the journalist community considering their conscious role in guiding a nation should keep in mind their responsibility towards the nation while discharging their professional duties.

CSO: 5550/0034

BANGLADESH

OUTCOME OF BNP CENTRAL EXECUTIVE MEETINGS REPORTED

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The extended meeting of the central executive committee of BNP that concluded on January 24 resolved to resist the farcical election under the present Martial Law government.

Presided over by Begum Khaleda Zia, the three-day meeting of BNP central executive committee [words illegible] earlier stand for an end to Martial Law through a free and fair parliamentary election to be conducted by a neutral government. The meeting observed that the election under the present Martial Law regime could not be free and fair and it was aimed only to legalise the present "illegal government" and to "put civilian colour to the Martial Law regime."

The meeting put seven conditions for creating congenial atmosphere to hold free and fair elections. The conditions said that the head of the state and CMLA must not take any direct or indirect part in the election campaign for any individual or party, the neutrality of the administration to conduct the election must be ensured, all state activities must be conducted under the normal law of the country and no new law or ordinance could be promulgated before the session of Jatiyo Sangsad, the complete freedom of the judiciary must be guaranteed, the verdict against the political leaders and ministers given by Martial Law court must be withdrawn, the appointments of upazila chairmen must be cancelled and the agreement with the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad must be implemented immediately.

CSO: 4600/1341

BANGLADESH

GOVERNMENT URGED TO RAISE FARAKKA AT UNITED NATIONS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 85 p 2

[Text] Jinjira (Shariatpur), Feb 2 (BSS)--Mr Abdul Khaleque, President of NAP (Bhashani) has said the government did not honour its commitment that it would hold parliamentary polls under a neutral government.

The NAP President was addressing a public meeting here on Wednesday organised by Jinjira upazila unit of the party on January 30 in observance of 15th Shaheed Day Anniversary of Shahid Abdul Jabbar Majhi and Shahid Alauddin. They were killed on this day in 1969 during popular upsurge in a public meeting following police firing.

The NAP chief criticised the government for its failure to renew the Farakka agreement of 1977 with India which is unilaterally withdrawing Ganges waters causing harmful effect to Bangladesh. Announcing his party's earlier decision of observing this historic Farakka March Day on May 16 he urged the country-men to observe the day unitedly to prove that none can deprive us of rightful and natural share of Ganges waters. He urged the government to move this urgent problem before the United Nations, Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) and other international forums.

He regretted the government indifference about the problem of communications in between upazila headquarters and the capital now causing extreme miseries to the travelling public.

The meeting was presided over by Mr Badsha Madbor, President of upazila unit of the party and addressed by Mr Nazim Madbar.

Earlier in the morning the leaders and workers of the local unit of the party and students of local college and schools in a silent procession visited the shahid minar and placed flower petals thereon and offered fateha for the martyrs.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

HINDU LEAGUE DEMANDS RESERVED SEATS IN GOVERNMENT

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 Feb 85 p 8

[Text] Bangladesh Hindu League at a public meeting yesterday demanded a neutral government for ensuring free and impartial election, reports BSS.

The League at a public meeting at the Baitul Mukarram square in Dhaka yesterday afternoon also put forward a 34-point resolution covering a wide range of political, social and economic issues.

In one of its resolutions, the meeting demanded that 20 percent seats should be reserved in the national parliament, cabinet, and other local bodies like municipal corporations, union councils and different autonomous bodies for the members of the Hindu community, the second largest community of the country's total population.

Presided over by Advocate Makbanial Ghose, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Major (retd) A.C. Dev, convenor of the Bangladesh Hindu League, Mr Sanjeeb Choudhury, Mr Kalipada Sarkar and Mr Laxmi Kanta Goswami.

Addressing the meeting, Major (retd) A.C. Dev said that the Hindus wanted to equally participate in the nation-building activities but alleged that for different socio-political reasons they could not play their due role.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

JANADAL SECRETARY GENERAL ADDRESSES 9 FEB MEETING

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Monohardi, Feb 9--Mizanur Rahman Choudhury, Secretary General of Janadal, addressing a public meeting here today said President Ershad is not involved in any political party. He has created the climate for a free and fair election in the country by dissolving his political cabinet, but opposition alliances apprehending their rout in the impending election failed to take any decision regarding their participation in it, the Janadal leader said.

Mizan Choudhury said the opposition parties had resorted to opposition just for the sake of opposition as they had no concrete programme of their own.

Lashing out at the opposition the Janadal leader said they are demanding the withdrawal of Martial Law but they have failed to give any modus operandi how Martial Law will be lifted.

Pointing out the contradiction of opposition politics, Mizan Choudhury said they held election remaining in power but now they wanted President Ershad to quit power.

On the one hand, Sheikh Hasina said all the governments after '75 are illegal while Khaleda Zia said thousands of people were put to death by their predecessor Government, the Janadal leader pointed out.

The unity based on convenience could not last long in politics, he said, and urged all to take lesson from 1954.

Shah Moazzem Hussain, Janadal leader, turning to Awami League leader Sheikh Hasina said, it is easy to inherit the property of the father but not the ideology. Sheikh Mujib introduced one-party Baksal rule by bringing about the fourth amendment to the constitution. "But you being the daughter of Sheikh Mujib had abandoned Baksal system and even went to the extent of expelling Mohluddin and Razzak from the party for propounding Baksal politics."

Both Awami League and BNP practised presidential rule while they were in power but now they were opposed to presidential rule, he said.

At one state a commotion was created in the meeting when a group of students of local Monohardi College came to the meeting venue and raised Joi Bangla slogan. The student processionists were chased by the supporters of Janadal. A clash ensued near the meeting venue and the general secretary of Students Union was injured. The meeting was cut short when it came under heavy brickbatting by the agitating students. Tension was prevailing at Monohardi.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

PAPERS REPORT DEVELOPMENTS IN JANADAL

Factions Discussed

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 1 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Ahmed Fazl]

[Text] The sponsors of the Janadal have learnt the hard way that it may be easy to float a political party but very difficult to make it run. The latest infighting in the district and upazila (subdistrict committees of the party is a chain reaction of the duels the party leaders in the top hierarchy have been engaged in since its founding under government patronage in November 1983.

Even the calls for unity from the sponsors have not been able to clear the messy situation. The inner conflicts are said to be the result of the diverse origins of the leaders and workers who constitute the Janadal. Most of those who now wear Janadal colours have either come from the former ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) or from the Awami League AL.

The party is already unofficially divided into two factions--the one led by the former (BNP) leaders and the other by the former AL leaders with both sides jockeying for power and influence constantly, a top Janadal executive committee member who would not like to be named said on Thursday.

Only recently, a prominent Janadal leader in Chittagong and former BNP minister Mrs Kamrun Nahar Zafar resigned protesting the changes in the party's district committee in her area allegedly ordered by a former AL leader in the party.

In Barisal, where a former BNP minister and presently Janadal leader changed the entire committee of his party in his district, erstwhile AL members of the party have created an organizational crisis.

A more serious situation developed in Jessore, where an ex-minister, Abdul Halim Chowdhury, presently member of the Janadal supreme council was assaulted and prevented from holding a public meeting in the district by his opponents.

A Janadal source said that the party was unable to form single committees such important districts as in Bogra, Pabna, Manikganj and even in the metropolis because of the infighting.

But if factional quarrels are preventing a cohesion in the party, the arbitrary formation of district committees from the party's central headquarters in the capital is causing annoyance in the party rank and file outside Dhaka.

This was especially manifest in Bogra where the district leaders formally protested to the party Secretary-General Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, a one time Awami Leaguer, about the unilateral announcement of the district committee.

While disruptive tendencies continue to plague the party, the leaders at the top are feverishly trying to paper over the differences. The Janadal has already announced a fifteen-member parliamentary board which is expected to select the 300 candidates to fight for the parliamentary seats for the party. But one of the senior members of the board confided that the selections of the candidates would be like opening up a hornet's nest.

The two factions have already worked out their own lists of candidates which they are supposed to place before the board if the major opposition alliances of fifteen and seven parties give any positive sign for participation in the April 6 elections.

Parliamentary Board Formed

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 31 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] A 15-member Parliamentary Board has been formed by the Supreme Council Janadal keeping in view of the coming national parliament elections, a Janadal press release said Wednesday night, reports BSS.

Mr Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Secretary General, Janadal, will act as the member-secretary of the board and the members are Messrs Aatur Rahman Khan, Shamsul Huda Chowdhury, Korban Ali, Reazuddin Ahmed, Captain (Rtd) Abdul Halim Chowdhury, Prof Yusuf Ali, Shah Moazzem Hussain, Sunil Gupta, Air Vice-Marshal (Rtd) K.M. Aminul Islam, Prof M.A. Matin, Mohammad Shamsul Huq, Air Vice-Marshal (Rtd) A.G. Mahmud, M.A. Sattar and Begum Mamata Wahab.

The Janadal Parliamentary Board will soon call applications to finalise a list of contenders for the elections.

CSO: 4600/1342

BANGLADESH

COMMUNIST PARTY GENERAL SECRETARY ADDRESSES MEETING

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Chittagong, Feb 4--Mohammad Farhad, General Secretary of CPB, addressing a public meeting at Laldighi maidan today said his party had already emerged as the biggest party of the country.

He said there is every possibility that his party might be voted to power if election is held free and fair. In this context he reiterated the demand of his party for fulfilling the seven-point preconditions which was a must for ensuring free and fair election.

Regarding the participation of 15-party alliance in the election, Mr Farhad, whose party is also a component of the 15-party alliance, said the 15-party will join the polls if the seven-point preconditions are met. They are dead opposed to any further postponement of the election.

Farhad emphatically announced that the CPB will introduce socialism in the country if voted to power. The microscopic capitalistic rulers will no longer be allowed to exploit the vast masses, CPB leader declared.

Referring to the politics of assassination, the CPB leader said, Khapra ward killing, jail killing of '75 and assassination of the Bahgabandhu and his family were no isolated events.

It is done at the behest of the imperialist quarters. The meeting presided over by Ahsanullah was addressed by Muzahidul Islam Selim along with local leaders.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

PRESS REPORTS ON BORDER PROBLEMS WITH INDIA

Rangpur Border Preparations

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Rangpur, Feb 8--India has started the fresh preparations to erect the disputed barbed wire fencing with the re-excavation of trenches in the neutral zone of its bordering areas opposite the entire 16 kilometer long border belts of Bhurungamari Upazila of Rangpur District.

According to reports reaching the District headquarters, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) along with trained volunteers were re-excavating and removing the trenches in the areas along international border pillars 1001 to 1010. The trenches were filled up in June last following an agreement between border officials of the two countries at a flag meeting held at Sonahat border.

Huge quantities of bricks, sand, cement and other fence materials were being piled up at different points along the Indian border areas of Ramraukuti, Chhatrasal, Biskhawa, Jaskol and Sonahat. About 1000 BSF jawans armed with sophisticated weapons were concentrated at Golokganj thana camp in Assam, about 1000 yards off the international border pillar no. 1010. The BSF jawans were also supplied with a large number of life-size triangular shaped iron shield.

These Indian preparations and the re-excavation of trenches have created concern and panic among the people of border areas of Bhurungamari Upazila.

Rangpur, Other Border Areas

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 11 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Matiur Rahman]

[Text] India is now going ahead with large-scale preparations for constructing the controversial barbed wire fence along her border with Bangladesh.

According to all available information coming from the borders, India has been amassing its security forces and piling up as well the required

materials all along the borders of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Sylhet, Comilla and Noakhali districts of Bangladesh for constructing the barbed wire fence.

According to a diplomatic circle in Dhaka, the Indians may go ahead with its design of erecting the controversial barbed wire fence presumably from first week of next month as is evident from all possible indications from across the border.

The circle also indicated India might start the barbed wire fencing "simultaneously" at different points along her common border with Bangladesh.

Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a recent interview with the 'Time' magazine clearly said that his government would go ahead with its design of erecting the barbed wire fence. Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saika also disclosed a few days ago that the Indian government would construct the fence along the Bangladesh border.

Despite strong protest lodged by Bangladesh against the Indian design, the Indian government has already mobilised both its men and materials along the border areas for undertaking the controversial scheme.

According to reports coming from Rangpur, India has started fresh preparations with re-excavation of trenches in the neutral zone of the 19 kilometer-long border opposite Bhurungamari in Rangpur district.

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) with the help of trained volunteers started re-excavating the trenches in the areas along the international border pillars bearing No 100 to No 1010. The trenches were filled up last year following untoward incidents and flag meetings between the border officials of the two countries.

This time again, India has already piled up huge quantities of bricks, cement bags, sand and other fencing materials at different points along her border areas of Ramraikuti, Chatrasai, Bishkhawa, Jaskol and Sonahat. Heavy security forces have also been deployed on the other side of the border.

The Indian authorities meanwhile set up a new check post near Tin Bigha corridor with huge deployment of border forces which let loose a reign of terror in the two Bangladesh enclaves--Angorpota and Dehagram.

According to reports coming from the borders, the Indians have brought in machines at different border areas opposite Noakhali, Comilla and Dinajpur for erecting concrete pillars for the fence.

The Indian BSF is learnt to have created a 'curfew situation' in the border areas like Bibirbazar, Akhaura, Sonamura, by not allowing people living in the border belts to come out even in day time. The BSF also dumped huge quantities of fence materials on the other side of the common international border and deployed heavy forces.

Similar reports of concentrating heavy para-military forces at different border outposts were received from the border areas of Motinagar, Ristamukh, Amiaghat, Sreenagar, Samargonj, Boxamnagar, Mautal and Naluo in Tripura State of India.

Harrassment in Enclaves

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 10 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Rangpur, Feb 9--Indian Border Security Force (BSF) let loose reign of terror on the people living in the two Bangladesh enclaves Angorpota and Dahagram.

The BSF personnel posted at a newly set up check post near the Tin Bigha corridor every day apprehend people of the enclaves and harass them for nothing and even the women are not spared by them.

The women from Dahagram enclave while coming towards the mainland through Tin Bigha corridor were chased and caught by BSF personnel who dragged them inside the check-post yesterday. They were not released yet.

This inhuman incident occurred yesterday noon and was noticed by a group of journalists who were visiting the border at that time. Almost every day large number of people including women are caught and taken inside the check-post the same way, according to the local people.

The heavy Indian border forces posted there tightened further their grip around the two enclaves and put the enclave people into captivity.

The Indian authorities constructed the new check-post at a place within stone throw distance from the international boundary pillar No 812 near the Tin Bigha corridor and the check post is well decorated by distemper and equipped with all amenities.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

REPORTAGE ON DHAKA MEETING OF ISLAMIC DEVELOPMENT BANK

Executive Directors' Meeting

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 2 Feb 85 pp 1, 14

[Text] The two-day meeting of the Board of Executive Directors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) which concluded in Dhaka on Friday approved 123 million dollars for financing trade operation programmes, development projects, equity participation and as special assistance to be taken up in different member countries including Bangladesh, an IDB Press release said in Dhaka on Friday, reports BSS.

Presided over by President of the bank Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali, the meeting also discussed matters relating to the two-day ninth annual meeting of the bank's Board of Governors beginning in Dhaka today (Saturday).

Of the total amount 75 million dollars has been approved for financing four foreign trade operations programme, 45.32 million dollars will be utilised for financing five development projects and 2.48 million dollars will be available as equity participating and special assistance.

Under the foreign trade financing programme 15 million dollars will be available for import of urea fertilizer from a member country in favour of Bangladesh, five million dollars has been earmarked for import of cotton and cotton yarn from a member country in favour of Tunisia, 10 million dollars will be utilised for import of refined petroleum products from a member country in favour of Yemen Arab Republic and 45 million dollars will be available for import of palm oil from a member country in favour of Pakistan.

Of the total loan amount of 45.32 million dollars for development projects, 10.09 million dollars has been sanctioned for Financing the Kurigram flood control and irrigation project in Bangladesh.

The project aims at controlling and drainage of the flood water from 261,000 acres of land and irrigation of 195 000 acres of land which will contribute to the development and improvement of the irrigation, farming and agricultural production and the realisation of self-sufficiency in the production of cereals and food in the country.

The board approved 3.93 million dollars for financing the Menchum integrated rural development project in Cameroon. The project aims at improving the production and rise of palm oil in Cameroon and refining trade and transport facilities in the project area northwest of the country.

A loan amount of 4.5 million dollars has been sanctioned for financing a project for implementation of 200 water points in the Republic of Benin. This project is part of Owems programme for integrated rural development in the country.

The board also approved a loan of 8.8 million dollars for financing a part of the cost of construction of the faculty of agriculture of the Sanaa University in Yemen Arab Republic.

The establishment of the college will meet the increasing need of the country for qualified agricultural experts to promote the agricultural sector in the country.

Under the development project financing programme the Board of Executive Directors also sanctioned 18 million dollars for financing the purchase of electric generators with a capacity of 150 megawatts per generator and two transformers for expanding the Mahrada Power Station in Syria. The project would assist in solving the problem of power shortage in the country.

Under equity participation programme the board approved 426 thousand dollars as equity participation in the Crescent Textile Company Ltd and Gammon Textile Company Ltd. In Bangladesh for Crescent Textile Mill the equity will be 30 percent of the capital. The amount will be available from the line of equity provided to Shilpa Bank, Bangladesh in July 1979 to the amount of 6.25 million dollars. The project will reduce the country's dependence on import of textiles.

The board also approved a grant of 1.8 million dollars for financing the construction of two Islamic centres in the districts of Nampola and Cabu-dilgado north of Mozambique, and completion of an Islamic centre at Ankoch in the country.

An amount of 265 thousand dollars was also approved as technical assistance grant for the laboratories in the faculty of science and technology in Abou-dees district of Jerusalem. The board also sanctioned another technical assistance grant of 290 thousand Islamic dinars for furnishing the faculty of arts for Girls at the Arab baby home, Jerusalem.

Governors' Opening Session

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad inaugurated the ninth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank in Dhaka on Saturday with the hope that in the coming years the united strength of the Islamic world coupled with an admirably action-oriented attitude conducive to development will make the policies and activities of the bank more effective.

President Ershad reiterated that the government and the people of Bangladesh are one with the bank in respect of adoption of more effective policies and expansion of its operation. President Ershad called for extending soft loans to the 21 Least Developed member Countries of the IDB and opening two regional offices of the bank—one for South-East Asian countries and the other for African countries. President Ershad proposed hosting the regional office of South-East Asia in Dhaka and assured all facilities for the operation of the office.

The Board of Governors of the Islamic Development Bank started its two-day meeting in Dhaka at Hotel Sonargaon with 13 agenda. The inaugural session was presided over by Bangladesh Finance Adviser and Chairman of the Board of Governors Mr M. Syeduzzaman. After the inauguration of the meeting at the grand ball room of Hotel Sonargaon Mr M. Syeduzzaman, Chairman of the meeting, Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali, President of the Bank and Mr Sharifuddin Pirzada, Secretary-General of OIC, addressed the plenary. President Ershad was thanked for his thought provoking speech by the Finance Ministers of Indonesia, Bahrain and Senegal. They congratulated him for giving valuable guidance and direction to the participants of the ninth annual meeting of IDB.

Speaking on the expanded operation of the bank in future, President Ershad suggested raising the authorised capital of the bank. He said almost the whole of the present authorised capital of two billion Islamic dinars of the bank has already been subscribed. The President called for increasing the authorised capital of the bank to meet the growing needs of member countries, particularly the Least Developed member Countries of the bank.

The most needy people

In this connection President Ershad said of the total population of the Islamic world 31 percent live in 19 Least Developed Countries and the prosperity of the Islamic world will be incomplete without an improvement of the conditions of these people. Without any hesitation it can be said that the size of the financing of the bank as of now falls short of the investment needs of the Least Developed Countries, President Ershad observed. He said scope is quite wide for expanding project aid and technical assistance to the LDCs by the bank. For the Ummah that believes it is disdainful to take food keeping the neighbour hungry it is imperative that a closer attention be given to solve the problems of its least developed constituents the President asserted.

Coming back to the operational problem of the bank, President Ershad exhorted that supplementary sources of funds will have to be identified to increase the bank's investible fund and expand its operation. He mentioned that currently the bank was considering instrumentalities for accepting investment deposits issuing investment certificates and introducing Mokadara bonds as ways of mopping up supplementary resources. Since the resources coming from these sources would not be able to meet the soft term investment needs of the less developed countries, President Ershad suggested establishment of a special fund on the lines of IDA of the World Bank and Asian Development Fund (ADA) of Asian Development Bank to meet the soft-term investment needs of the Least Developed Countries. The President said only with the formation of such an association and establishment of such a fund the bank will be able to provide soft loans to the IDCs.

'Regional offices may be set up'

President Ershad suggested that along with the increase of investible resources for development and welfare it was necessary to increase the capacity of the aid receiving countries to absorb investments and to accelerate the process of project implementation. To meet this the bank may set up regional offices and expand the scope of its overall operations.

Highlighting the difficulties of the member countries regarding financing of the foreign trade, President Ershad said the bank has so far provided 3 billion US dollars to the member countries to finance the import and export of necessary commodities under its foreign trade financing operation. He noted that the operation of the bank in this respect had expanded bilateral and multilateral trade cooperation among the member countries. It had facilitated distribution of the produce of the Islamic world according to the needs of the Ummah and in the process provided incentive for increasing production. President Ershad hoped that the bank will enlarge the list of commodities eligible for financing and softening the terms of credit to increase the trade cooperation among the member countries and would facilitate our collective drive towards plenty and prosperity.

\$398.47m IDB loans

Speaking about the bank's cooperation with Bangladesh President Ershad said the IDB had provided US dollars 398.47 million to Bangladesh as project loan lease finance equity investment loan for import of essential commodities and grant for education extension. The Islamic Development Bank co-financed Zia International Airport, East-West Electrical Inter-connector and Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Factory. The President informed that recently the Islamic Development Bank had signed an agreement with the Government of Bangladesh to extend soft-term credit for the Teesta Barrage Project in cooperation with the Saudi fund for development. The President highly appreciated the bank's operation for sending sacrificial meat to the Islamic countries and help to the Shahel areas. The President wished success of the meeting and expressed his hope that the growing unity among the Islamic countries would benefit the entire Ummah in the coming days.

Egypt's Reentry Okayed

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 3 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The re-entry of Egypt to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) was approved by its Board of Governors at the ninth annual meeting of the Bank in Dhaka on Saturday.

The resolution endorsing Egyptian re-entry was not put to vote though Libya and Syria expressed their strong reservation about it.

Briefing the newsmen at the Media Centre about the deliberations in the first day's meeting of the Board of Governors, Mr Abdur Rahman Al-Hersi, official spokesman of the meeting and Adviser to the President of IDB said that Egypt had resumed its seat after the invitation following the approval of its re-entry resolution was extended to it. When asked which other countries besides Libya and Syria had opposed the Egyptian re-entry he said "I will leave it to you for guesswork." About Libyan and Syrian reservation he preferred to make no comment.

When asked what would happen to Egypt's contribution of 25 million Islamic dinars in the share capital of the bank which was frozen after the suspension of its membership, Mr Al-Hersi who was the former Finance Minister of Somalia said that on re-entry the normal rights and obligations between Egypt and IDB would be resumed.

The Board of Governors of the IDB went through three items of the 13 agenda on the first day of its meetings. The items included the adoption of the agenda, the report of the procedural committee and issue of the Egyptian re-entry. It also took up the general discussions on the 9th annual report of the Bank. The discussions on the report will continue today (Sunday).

Besides the annual report the remaining items of the agenda including the draft cooperation agreements between the Bank and the Islamic Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO) and the West African Development Bank requests of Turkey and Bangladesh to increase subscription to the IDB selection of external auditors, election of the President and Executive Directors for a new term, selection of the place and date for the 10th annual conference, appointment of a new procedural committee and election of Chairman and two Vice-Chairmen will be taken up for consideration by the Board of Governors on the concluding day's session of the two-day annual meeting today (Sunday).

The spokesman of the 9th annual IDB meeting told the newsmen at the briefing session that the proposals of Bangladesh as the host country for raising the existing capital structure of the Bank opening of its regional offices and special operational programmes for the Least Development Countries within the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) had drawn considerable support from some of the Governors who took part in the first day's general discussion.

Major Decisions Reported

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] The two-day ninth annual meeting of the Board of Governors of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) concluded on Sunday with a decision to raise the authorised capital of the bank by 102 million Islamic Dinars (104 million US dollars). Turkey and Bangladesh will subscribe the entire amount of the enhanced capital.

Briefing newsmen about the outcome of the meeting Mr M. Syeduzzaman, Finance Adviser and Chairman of the 9th annual meeting of the IDB said that the share of Turkey would be raised to 160 million Islamic Dinars from the existing level of 63 million Islamic Dinars (ID) and that of Bangladesh to 25 million ID from 20 million ID. The subscription by Turkey and Bangladesh to the enhanced capital of the Bank will be made over a period of five years and Turkey's case for becoming permanent member in the Board of Executive Directors will be decided later, he added.

The present strength of permanent members in the Board of Executive Directors, the day-to-day operational wing of the Bank, is four and these four countries are Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait and Libya.

Mr Syeduzzaman said that the Board of Governors had decided at the ninth annual meeting to raise the number of Executive Directors from existing 10 to 11.

Mohammad Ali re-elected President

The other major decisions of the 9th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the IDB are the re-election of Dr Ahmed Mohammad Ali as the President of the Bank for a new five-year term, the election of the Jordanian Governor of the IDB as its new chairman, the re-entry of Egypt to the IDB, holding of 10th annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the Bank in Amman on March 22, and 23, 1986, approval of the annual report and the annual statement of accounts and appointment of two external auditors and a procedural committee.

Replying to a question about the possibility of opening a soft-loan window for the least developed member countries of the Bank like that of the IDA of the World Bank and Asian Development Fund (ADF) of the Asian Development Bank, Mr Syeduzzaman said that the general discussions on this issue was held at the meeting but no concrete decision was taken. The issue, he noted, is related to widening of the capital base of the Bank through different ways and means including borrowings from the market. The Executive Board of Directors of the Bank will, however, take note of the observations of the governors about the soft-loan window in its routine operations, he added.

About the possibility of setting up of regional offices of IDB, he said that the Executive Board of Directors would examine the cost-effectiveness of this proposal before a decision was taken about it in future.

Project financing

Asked about increasing the project financing operation of the Bank, Mr Syedizzaman stated that many of the member countries highlighted the need for increased loan operation by the Bank but the issue involved the capital resources of the IDB and would be examined in detail by the executive Board of Directors. He claimed the project loans offered by the IDB with a service charge of four percent per annum was softer compared to those given by other multilateral developed banks and institutions. He similarly claimed that foreign trade financing by the IDB with a service charge of eight percent and a repayment period of 36 months was also softer and approval and disbursement at the request of the recipient countries was quicker under the same.

The Finance Adviser noted that Bangladesh had recently got a foreign trade financing loan of 20 million US dollars from IDB for the import of fertiliser only within four weeks after the request was made to the Bank for the same. Besides Bangladesh received a ten million US dollar project assistance from the Bank during the ninth annual meeting of the IDB. Yet another agreement for a ten million US dollar grant assistance by the Bank for Bangladesh was signed in Dhaka this (Sunday) morning, he added.

Mr Syeduzzaman said the outcome of the 9th annual meeting of the Bank as "successful" and "positive." He pointed out that twenty full Ministers, three State Ministers and two Deputy Ministers from the member countries of the Bank had joined the 9th annual meeting of its board of governors in Dhaka.

Pirzada calls on Ershad

The Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, now in the city in connection with the 9th meeting of IDB called on the President and Chief Martial Law Administrator Lt Gen H.M. Ershad at Bangabhaban in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

They exchanged view on issues concerning the Islamic Ummah.

Later, the Foreign Minister of Maldives, Mr Fathulla Jameel also called on the President at Bangabhaban.

He remained with the President for sometime.

Loans Approved

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Feb 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] The Islamic Development Bank (IDB) on Sunday signed three separate agreements with Morocco, Tunisia and North Yemen, extending loans for different projects in those countries, reports BSS.

The agreements were signed in Dhaka by the IDB President, Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali and the Ministers of the three countries who were in Dhaka for the ninth annual meeting of the IDB Board of Governors.

Under one agreement, Morocco will receive a loan of Islamic dinar 6.9 million from the Islamic Development Bank for construction of a sewage network and supply of water and electricity.

Tunisia will receive a loan of 7.12 million Islamic dinars for financing a project for training technical instructors for secondary and higher technical and vocational schools.

For North Yemen the IDB will provide 8.8 million Islamic dinars to support a faculty of agriculture at the university of Saana.

The Islamic Development Bank will extend a loan of 6.88 million US dollars (equivalent to 6.75 million Islamic dinars) to Republic of Niger as part of cofinancing a water project in the country.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Niger and the Islamic Development Bank in Dhaka on Sunday.

Under another agreement, Niger will receive a technical assistance of 0.63 million dollars (equivalent to 0.60 million Islamic dinars) for conducting a feasibility study for construction of second bridge on the river Niger in Niamey.

The agreements were signed by the IDB President Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali and the Niger's Minister for Finance Mr Bokhari Adji, who are now in Dhaka to attend the ninth annual meeting of the IDB Board of Governors.

The IDB will also finance the feasibility studies of a dairy plant and feed mill project in Mauritania.

President Meets Press

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 5 Feb 85 pp 1, 10

[Text] Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali, President of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) said in Dhaka on Monday that the main thrust of the IDB would be to bring Muslim countries together and forge close cooperation among them in the field of trade and economic development.

Addressing a crowded Press conference at a local hotel on Monday, the IDB chief said that the bank management would give special priority to provide soft term additional facilities to the least developed member countries in the coming years. He said that the bank was established with the prime objective of helping the less developed muslim countries and the project financing was mainly provided to the less developed member countries.

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali expressed his satisfaction at the progress of IDB financed projects in Bangladesh and described the cooperation between the bank and Bangladesh as excellent. He disclosed that Bangladesh received 76 million U.S. dollars as project loan and 395 million U.S. dollars for trade financing so far. He assured increased cooperation of the bank with Bangladesh in future in the field of agriculture, industry and foreign trade financing. The IDB chief informed that the agricultural financing has been increased from 3 percent to 15 percent to the member countries. The financing in the field of industry was also satisfactory, he added.

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali said that Bangladesh had successfully implemented foreign trade finance, grants, technical assistance, equity and lease financing. He highly praised Bangladesh for excellent preparation of the ninth annual meeting of the Board of Governors. He also lauded the efforts of Mr M. Sayeduzzaman, Chairman of the meeting and his aides for smooth conduct of the proceedings. He said that all the decisions were taken in the meeting on the basis of consensus.

Bid to broaden base of the bank

Replying to a question on expanding the resource base of the bank, the IDB chief said although the bank primarily depends on its capital subscription, the bank was doing other exercises to raise funds. The bank is creating instruments to attract and mobilise additional resources for widening the operational base of the bank. He told a questioner that the expansion of project financing would largely depend on resource mobilisation. He disagreed with a questioner that the bank was helping the rich in foreign trade financing and said that the bank was helping itself in through foreign trade financing. He said that the main profit of the bank comes from the foreign trade financing.

Replying a question on setting up of regional offices of the bank, Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali said that the issue is under serious consideration and he hoped that the Board of Executive Directors would take action in this regard to help project appraisal and project implementation in the member countries.

Dr Ahmed Mohammed Ali also thanked the national Press for extending cooperation for smooth conduct of the proceedings of the meeting. He also thanked the people and government of Bangladesh for extending warm hospitality to the delegates.

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BANGLADESH

REPORTAGE ON OIC CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS' MEETING

Opening Meeting

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 5 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The sixth meeting of central bank governors and monetary authorities began in Dhaka yesterday with a call for direct cooperation between their financial institutions for augmenting resources.

Emphasis was given on positive measures for fostering mutual cooperation through stepping up development activities needed for meeting the basic needs of the people.

It was pointed out in the inaugural session that "political will and commitment" was an essential precondition for implementation of the plan of action for strengthening economic cooperation among the member states.

The two-day meeting is being attended by governors and officials of central banks and monetary authorities of 27 OIC countries.

Inaugurated by Bangladesh Finance Adviser M. Syeduzzaman, the meeting was addressed by OIC Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Bangladesh Bank Governor M. Nurul Islam and the Governor of Turkish State Bank.

Representatives of the IDB and the International Association of Islamic Banks are also attending the meeting as observers.

While emphasising on closer cooperation among the member countries, Mr Syeduzzaman referred to the plan of action adopted at the third Islamic summit.

He said the meeting can make positive contributions to more than one of the six priority areas of the plan of action. The areas are agricultural development and food security, industry, science and technology, trade exchange, transport and communication and energy.

In areas of monetary, interest, rate exchange rate, and reserve management, Mr Syeduzzaman said policies of the member countries should be coordinated in order to alleviate the adverse impact of high volatility of exchange rate movements for the major currencies.

He made a number of suggestions towards investment in the member states to provide support for better trading opportunities between the member countries and preferential and increased employment opportunities to workers of non-oil developing member states of the OIC.

Mr Syeduzzaman said Bangladesh provides a fertile ground for increased economic cooperation. The return on productive and industrial investment here is very high compared to many other developing countries. The government also provides attractive opportunities to foreign entrepreneurs for developing natural resources and export base.

In this connection he listed the incentive package offered for direct foreign investment, which includes setting up of export-oriented industries, soft exchange regulations, experienced banking system, insurance market and export processing zone.

Mr Syeduzzaman expressed the hope that investors from the OIC countries would take full advantage of the opportunities offered by Bangladesh.

In his brief speech the state bank governor of Turkey spoke for strengthening economic and financial cooperation among the OIC countries.

IDB capital will be raised by over 100 million Islamic dinars and not to 100 millions as was published in our paper Monday. The increased capital will be subscribed by Turkey 97 m dinars and Bangladesh 5 m dinars. Present subscribed capital of Turkey is 64 m dinars and that of Bangladesh 20m in dinars.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr M. Nurul Islam said Bangladesh Bank would shortly convene a meeting of the major commercial banks of the Islamic countries so that they could meet, discuss and enter into business transactions besides knowing each other.

He thought in the area of banking and financial arrangements for mutual benefit of the member countries the central banks and monetary authorities could exercise their influence so that commercial banks of their respective countries shed their usual conservatism and enter into liberal type of arrangement with commercial banks of the low income countries.

Mr Islam felt that the central bank governors could also use their influence to help form non-deposit taking investment companies in the Islamic countries. Individuals and also financial institutions could participate in these investment companies, he added.

The agenda of the meeting includes: presentation of status report on implementation of the recommendations of the fifth meeting of the governors of central banks and monetary authorities, review of the world economic and financial situation with special reference to Islamic countries, examination of the report of the export group on capital markets, export and refinancing mechanism, consideration of the study on payment arrangements among member

state, study on evaluation and progress of regulations and guidelines on promotion, establishment and supervision of Islamic banks and a report on the activities of the international association of Islamic banks and fixation of date and venue of the next meeting.

Concluding Meeting

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The two-day sixth meeting of the Governors of Central Banks and monetary authorities of OIC member states ended on Tuesday with a call for necessary changes in the economic policies of the industrialised countries to help the world economy in general and that of the developing countries in particular to overcome their problems.

Inaugurated by the Finance Adviser Mr M. Syeduzzaman on Monday, the meeting was attended by the governors and officials of Central Banks of 27 OIC countries. The meeting adopted a package of recommendations for greater cooperation among the financial institutions of the Muslim countries.

The OIC Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, IDB President Ahmed Mohammed Ali and Bangladesh Bank Governor Nurul Islam also addressed the meeting. Besides, representatives of Islamic Development Bank and International Association of Islamic Banks attended the meeting.

The meeting discussed the following items: review of the world economic and financial situations with special reference to Islamic countries, Export Group report on capital market, report on export and refinancing mechanism, payment arrangement and regulation and guidelines on promotion of establishment and supervision of Islamic Bank.

In relation to the world economic and financial situation, the Governors felt that outlook for 1985 did not seem bright and stressed the need for industrialised countries to bring about necessary changes in their economic policies and for the developing countries to explore ways and means to develop cooperation with one another to help the world economy and particularly the developing countries to get out of the current problems.

With regard to the capital markets, the Governors, while endorsing the report, recommended that IDB might consider to set up a section to promote capital market in the member states while the Islamic Chamber of Commerce which was already dealing with joint ventures and investment promotion activities in the private sector should also accelerate its work in this area.

Since IDB is expanding its trade financing operation, the Governors felt that these operations could be further standardised and extended to cover longer term trade financing. The Governors, accordingly, urged the IDB to expedite the setting up of an export refinancing scheme for member states.

Payment Arrangement

About payment arrangements among member states, the Governors recognised that considerable preparatory work has to be completed for the establishment of a multilateral clearing arrangement among members states. They noted that the first session of the Standing Committee for Economic and Commercial Cooperation, while adopting the programme for trade cooperation among member states has already agreed on the convening of groups of experts from interested member states under the auspices of the IDB to examine the feasibility of the following: 1) Longer term financing facilities, 2) regional export credit guarantee scheme and 3) a multilateral Islamic clearing union.

Islamic Bank

In regard to promotion, establishment and supervision of Islamic Bank, the Governors urged the members states to give all possible help and support for the promotion of Islamic bank. They also felt that the question of Islamic Banking involved a comprehensive analysis covering the overall monetary policy including, but not limited to, control of liquidity in member states. They emphasised detailed studies on Islamic Banking covering all related issues to be undertaken by competent experts noting that sufficient relevant expertise was available with Islamic institutions and academic circles to help carry out the exercise.

Secretary General's Press Conference

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 6 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] OIC Secretary General Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada on Tuesday expressed the hope that the Ganges water dispute between Bangladesh and India would be amicably resolved in accordance with international law and convention, reports BSS.

Mr Pirzada was addressing a press conference at the Zia International Airport before his departure for Ankara after attending the ninth annual IDB meeting.

Answering questions, the Secretary General expressed "deep concern" of the OIC about the construction of the Farakka Barrage by India obstructing the natural flow of the Ganges into Bangladesh.

Earlier talking to BSS Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada said that the Iran-Iraq war, Middle East and Afghanistan were the three priorities he had fixed for his urgent attention on assuming his new office.

Mr Pirzada said drought-hit Sahel countries would also receive his keen attention besides other pressing problems of the Islamic Ummah.

The OIC Secretary General said he was quite 'optimistic' about an early solution of the Iran-Iraq war.

He said both Iran and Iraq had shown reasonable attitude at the 15th Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers held in Saana and both of them had accepted the resolution adopted at the conference.

Mr Pirzada said since the Saana conference steps have been taken to implement the resolution and the Chairman of the OIC Peace Committee, President Dauda Jawara of Gambia and he himself had taken initiative in this regard. We feel encouraged by the attitude of Iran and Iraq, he said.

Mr Pirzada said he had detailed talks with the Chairman of the Fourth Islamic Summit as well as Al-Quds Committee King Hasan of Morocco and Presidents of Bangladesh and Pakistan, who are on the nine-member committee. Besides, President Jawara had met the President of Syria and Libya a fortnight ago in his bid to initiate a peace offensive.

Replying to a question on the recent escalation of the war the OIC Secretary General said it was "unfortunate" and added sooner the war ends the better for all.

On the Middle East, Mr Pirzada said OIC stand on the ME issue was quite clear, Israel must withdraw from all Arab territory including Jerusalem and the Palestinians must get back their own homeland and their right of self-determination.

"We will pursue this from all directions in co-operation with Muslim countries," he said, and pointed out that even the United Nations and the Non-aligned Movement had taken clear stand on the issue.

In this connection, Mr Pirzada said he has had talks with summit Chairman King Hasan of Morocco and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat on the situation prevailing in the Middle East.

Asked if the OIC would use its good offices to solve bilateral problems faced by any member country like the issue of sharing of Ganges waters faced by Bangladesh, Mr Pirzada said OIC's concern for solving the problems of Muslim countries was reflected in its resolutions.

Mr Pirzada further said he had "notable concern" about the adverse effect of Farakka Barrage on Bangladesh. He hoped that the issue would be resolved.

He said OIC stand on withdrawal of foreign troops from Afghanistan and the Afghan's right to decide their own fate needed no reiteration. Describing the Afghanistan situation, a matter of deep concern, Mr Pirzada said that the OIC in a resolution adopted in the Saana conference condemned the bombing of the Afghan refugee camps inside Pakistan.

Stranded Pakistanis

Replying to a question on the issue of repatriation of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, he said the stand of the two countries had been reflected in the statements of Bangladesh's Foreign Affairs Adviser and the Pakistan President.

He pointed out that the Saudi voluntary agency Rabetat Al Alam Islam mission was interested in the settlement of the problem and he hoped that with the intervention and good offices of Rabita the matter would be resolved.

Mr Pirzada, however, denied a report published in a section of the press that he refused to visit the camps of stranded Pakistanis in Dhaka. My busy schedule here prevented me from taking a visit to the camps, he said.

Asked to comment on the proposal for creation of a three billion dollar special fund for assistance, the LDC countries of the OIC at the Taif Islamic summit, the OIC Secretary General said the Taif plan would eventually be implemented.

The OIC Secretary General described the Dhaka meeting of the Islamic Development Bank as a great success and said positive and constructive suggestions were adopted at the meeting.

He said Bangladesh President Ershad had also made some good suggestions for improving the effectiveness of the bank and these would receive due attention.

CSO: 4600/1351

BANGLADESH

BEGUM ZIA OPENS BNP CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] Begum Khaleda Zia, Chairman of Bangladesh National st Party (BNP) on Monday said that her party could by no means participate in the parliamentary election in a situation where polls cannot be challenged in courts and when the five-point demands have not yet been met. She went on to say that congenial atmosphere for holding a free and fair election has not yet been created by accepting the seven-point preconditions.

It may be recalled that the Government has by an order restricted appeals to courts challenging the holding of election.

The BNP Chairman added that President Ershad by his activities had amply proved that he was not a neutral and non-political person.

Begum Zia made these observations in her inaugural speech at the extended meeting of the party's central committee at the Institute of Engineers on Monday.

Election can't be challenged in courts

The BNP leader further said that the party believed in election and was not opposed to it. There is no controversy on this point, she added. But a free and fair election cannot be expected under the present situation, she said, adding the head of the Government is remaining deliberately silent about his role in the parliamentary polls. She alleged it was clear from the CMLA's Order No 1 that the Government was not willing to hold a free and fair election. Section 2 of the Order restricts appeal to the High Court challenging the polls. It is the best proof of the Government's intention to rig the election, she asserted.

Ershad campaigning as candidate

The BNP Chairman said it was assured that the presidential election would be held after the first session of the Parliament. But now President Ershad has started campaigning as a candidate, she said.

Begum Zia added that while reviewing the present political, economic, social and cultural situation, she had come to the conclusion that President Ershad did not want polls and was not at all eager to restore democracy. Actually he wants to perpetuate his power, she said.

The BNP Chairman wanted to know whether President Ershad would transfer power if BNP achieved the majority seats in the election. She said President Ershad will try to have a Parliament in his favour to ratify the "illegal activities of his regime in the past."

Dr A.Q.M. Badruddoza Choudhury, Secretary General of the party, placed his report in the meeting. A large number of district leaders also spoke in the extended meeting which was participated by central committee members, former Ministers, former MPs, Presidents and Secretaries of district units and front organisations.

CSO: 4600/1356

BANGLADESH

AMBASSADOR TO KAMPUCHEA PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Feb 85 pp 1, 12

[Text] Mr K.M. Kaiser, who has been accredited as Ambassador of Bangladesh to Democratic Kampuchea with residence in Beijing presented his credentials to Prince Norodom Sihanouk, President of the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea on Saturday at Pnom Malai inside the Kampuchea territory according to a message received in Dhaka on Monday, reports BSS.

The ceremony was attended among others by Mr Khieu Samphan, Vice-President and Foreign Minister, Mr Leng Sary, Finance Minister and Mr Sonn Sen, Defence Minister of Democratic Kampuchea.

While presenting his credentials, Ambassador Kaiser conveyed to President Sihanouk the warm greetings and good wishes of President H.M. Ershad.

He reaffirmed the Bangladesh's support for an early establishment of an independent, peaceful, neutral and non-aligned Kampuchea in realisation of the hopes and aspirations of the Kampuchean people.

Receiving the credentials Prince Sihanouk paid high tributes to the President and the people of Bangladesh and regarded the presentation of credentials by Ambassador Kaiser as a manifestation of their dedication to a noble cause.

He expressed deep appreciation of the firm support extended by the government and people of Bangladesh to the just cause of the Kampuchean people.

Mr Kaiser is the second Ambassador of Bangladesh to have been accredited to Democratic Kampuchea. His predecessor, Mr C.M. Murshed had presented his credentials to the Prince in April 1983.

CSO: 4600/1356

BANGLADESH

VISITING IMAM LAUDS DHAKA'S RELIGIOUS FERVOR

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Feb 85 p 12

[Text] Minister for Information, Law and Justice, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Barrister A.R. Yusuf on Monday met the Chief Imam of the Holy Haram-e-Mekkah Mukarrama, Shaikh Mohammad Bin Abdullah Bin Subaiyil, prior to the latter's departure for Mekkah, reports BSS.

The Minister apprised the Chief Imam of the religious fervour and hopes and aspirations of the Muslims of Bangladesh. He also apprised him of the vast religious feelings that was infused in the minds of the Muslims of Bangladesh on the occasion of his visit to this country.

Referring to the high regard and esteem of the Muslims of Bangladesh for the Chief Imam of the Holy Harem Sharif, Information Minister Barrister Yusuf said that Bangladesh, as the second greatest Muslim state of the world, is totally fastened to the teachings and injunctions of Islam. Referring to the present government's policy to promote better solidarity and integrity with the Islamic world, Barrister Yusuf said that Bangladesh Government, under the leadership of President Ershad, has been taking steps to mould the national and social life of its people according to the tenets of Islam.

The Chief Imam of Haram Sharif, narrating his experience of his journey to Chittagong by Biman said that he was simply overwhelmed with the doa "Bismillah-e-Mazreha Waa Mor Saha Innah Rabbi La Gaffor-ur-Rahim," pronounced just before the Biman took off. He said that this was a great service and love for Islam and the Muslims of Bangladesh would surely be blessed with the infinite mercy of Allah for this arrangement.

Barrister Yusuf apprised him that this arrangement of reading this holy 'doa' was made on the directive and personal realisation of President Ershad. Being apprised of this directive the Chief Imam expressed his great satisfaction and offered 'Munajat' for the pious Muslims of Bangladesh and President Ershad.

Expressing the religious solidarity of the Arabs with the Muslims of Bangladesh, the Chief Imam declared that he has been greatly impressed with President Ershad's devotion to Islam. He said that time has come for the Saudi

Government and Bangladesh Government to work together for propagating the teachings and ideology of Islam to reach them to every nook and corner of the world.

Later, Barrister A.R. Yusuf saw the Chief Imam off at the Zia International Airport. On the eve of his departure, the Chief Imam said again that he was simply touched to see each and every Muslim of Bangladesh so deeply attached to religion and so much pious. He offered 'Munajat' for the peace and prosperity of the Bangladeshi Muslims at the airport.

Among others, Saudi Arabian Ambassador to Bangladesh was present.

CSO: 4600/1356

BANGLADESH

UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR DISCUSSES CAMPUS SITUATION

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The present crisis in the university campus stemmed from the political unrest and socio-economic situation prevailing in the country, said Prof Shamsul Hoq, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University.

He said he believed that the overall healthy and congenial atmosphere in the Dhaka University campus depended on the goodwill and attitude of the overnment and the political parties.

Prof Hoq was presiding over the inaugural ceremony of the "Dhaka University Day '85" held at the sprawling lush green lawn between the Arts Building and the Administrative Building yesterday morning.

He made a fervent appeal to all concerned to find out and effect permanent solutions to the campus problems in the light of historical and national perspective.

Prof Hoq mentioned that the Dhaka University was marching ahead towards its cherished goals and objectives keeping in view its tradition, duties and national obligations. But time and again unfavourable situation and political crisis severely impede our plan and progress, he added.

He said that the serious repercussion of the incident that happened on the night of February 20 last at Shaheed Minar student killing on February 28 last, oppression and atrocity inside and in front of the Arts College on March 1 last could not be overlooked. Besides the intrusion of the outsiders who identified themselves as students of the university campus were retarding the normal activities of the university, he said.

He underlined that the Dhaka University had played and were playing vital role in developing trained human resources in the country.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by National Professor Abdur Razzaq as chief guest and DUCSU VP Akhtaruzzaman.

Prof Abdur Razzaq in his speech recalled the days, situation and environment of the university during his student life.

Mr Akhtaruzzaman said that a university was not an island isolated from the society and so the autonomy of a university depended on how much an individual enjoyed freedom and dignity in the society.

He said the crisis created due to the absence of democratic order and environment in the country would also affect the educational institutions. "University autonomy is imperative to create free mind and flourish free thinking," he added.

He, however, observed that more than decade after independence of the country interference in the university autonomy had become almost regular.

The university day which was observed for the third time in a befitting manner as the university authority, DUCSU and different socio-cultural organisations arranged a good number of cultural programmes and exhibitions.

Before the inaugural ceremony, a march past of the BNCC's Rovers and Rangers was held at the lawn where Vice-chancellor took the salute.

Munajat was offered at the inaugural function for the well-being of the nation. One minute silence was also observed as a mark of respect to the late teachers, students, officers and employees of the University. All the offices of different departments, institutions, halls, libraries and canteens remained open for the guardians and the guests.

Exhibitions of photographs and posters, and materials used by martyr intellectuals at the TSC and the Arts Building premises, books and magazines at the Curzon Hall and handicrafts at the Rokeya and Shamsunna-har halls were arranged by the university authority, DUCSU and other organisation.

Three open-stage dramas were staged by different cultural organisations at different places of the campus.

A poetry recitation session was arranged at the lawn adjacent to the DUCSU canteen. The Dhaka University Day-'85 ended with holding a colourful cultural function at the lawn between the Arts Building and the Administrative building. Students and eminent artists of the country those who were once students of the university took part in the cultural show.

BANGLADESH

REPUTED QADHDHAFI 'BAGMAN' ASKED TO LEAVE DHAKA

Dhaka HOLIDAY in English 1 Feb 85 pp 1, 8

[Article by Amin Chowdhury]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has done it again. A senior Libiyan diplomat, who came to Bangladesh to take over the charge of his country's embassy, was reportedly asked to quit Bangladesh but there is no official announcement from the ministry or from other agencies involved.

The case is reminiscent of the incidents in December 1983 when the authorities expelled a dozen of Soviet diplomats and some other Soviet employees for their involvement in undiplomatic activities.

President Ershad at the time told reporters the government has sufficient evidences to prove the case against the Soviet diplomats. But the Foreign Ministry maintained a conspicuous silence about the issue for reasons best known to them. Even a written question by a foreign correspondent at the time produced a one-sentence reply from the Foreign Ministry saying it was a matter between two friendly countries.

In the Libiyan case too repeated querries by reporters have not yielded any results. May be, here is another case of jolly good friendship between Bangladesh and Libiya about which the sacrosant Foreign Ministry bureaucrats prefer to keep the people ignorant.

Diplomatic jargons and cliches are often difficult for ordinary mortals to understand. But since when definite actions against foreign diplomats taken by a government on clear evidences have become acts of friendship will be interesting to know.

The decision to oust the Libyan diplomat is learnt to have been taken at the highest level of the government. The diplomat, Salem Ibrahim Salem, has also left the country after staying for about 17 days in a hotel in the capital. During the time, Mr. Salem reportedly held meetings with some Bangladeshis and went out to attend receptions.

But who is this mysterious Mr. Salem? What was he up to here and why has he been refused accreditation by the government as a diplomat of his country? Was he involved in anti-Bangladesh activities abroad in the past?

Did he come without any prior knowledge of our authorities? If yes, in what capacity, and who permitted him to enter Bangladesh? No one in the country appears to know; and the people, who handled the affair and are supposed to tell the people, will not do it.

The official spokesman of the Foreign Ministry has 'no comments' on it and none knows who else has one.

A call to the Libyan embassy, officially known as the Libiyan People's Bureau, also understandably produced hushed silence.

It is gathered that Ibrahim Salem is internationally known as Libyan strongman Col. Muammer Gaddafi's 'bagman' for distributing money to encourage terrorism and subversion in foreign countries.

He was reportedly found involved in activities contrary to Bangladesh's interest in the capital of a West European country. According to reports in British newspapers, Mr. Salem booked a hotel suite in Paris in the name of the Bangladesh embassy there and allegedly held sessions with British coal miners' leader Arthur Scargill. Bangladesh embassy in France, however, denied any connection with the incident which happened a few months back. The newspaper, Sunday Times, however, did not publish the rejoinder.

Officials here were surprised that Mr. Ibrahim Salem showed up in Dhaka to join as secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau. The secretary is the head of the mission and enjoys the position of an ambassador, it is learnt.

It is gathered that under peculiar diplomatic system introduced by Libya, its government does not perform the usual procedures of exchanging agreemo before appointing an ambassador. Libyan diplomats arrive the country on their assignments and then inform the host government.

Ibrahim Salem also came to Bangladesh to take over his responsibilities but he was barred. May be, for good reasons, like the Russians in 1983, Mr. Salem had to go. But the people, have the right to know facts.

CSO: 5650/0065

BANGLADESH

ENVOYS IN CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES PRESENT CREDENTIALS

Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Feb 85 p 3

[Text]

The Governor General of Jamaica, Sir Florizel Glasspole, has expressed the desire to strengthen the bilateral relations between his country and Bangladesh and assured of all possible measures towards this direction, according to a message received in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

The Governor General was receiving the credentials of Bangladesh High Commissioner Major General KM Safiullah in a state function.

Sir Glasspole also requested the High Commissioner to convey his personal greetings to President Ershad.

Earlier, High Commissioner Safiullah presented his credentials to the Governor General and conveyed the personal greetings of President Ershad to him.

The High Commissioner also met Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Jamaica and discussed ways of improving relations between the two

countries. The Foreign Minister underscored the urgent need for South-South Cooperation and expressed his desire to work closely with Bangladesh in the future.

In a similar function in Bahamas last week Major General Safiullah presented his credentials to Governor General Sir Gerald Cash as the first High Commissioner of Bangladesh to that country.

Speaking on the occasion Sir Gerald expressed his regards for President Ershad.

During his stay in the Bahamas, High Commissioner Safiullah also met Prime Minister Sir Lynden Pindling and Foreign Minister Mr. Clement Maynard and discussed issues of common bilateral interest.

Major General K.M. Safiullah, who is Bangladesh High Commissioner to Canada, is also concurrently accredited to Jamaica and the Bahamas.

CSO: 4600/1358

BANGLADESH

RAW MATERIAL IMPORTS SAID TO BE UNSATISFACTORY

Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 30 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] Unsatisfactory import performance in case of industrial raw materials, packing materials and spares reflecting another recessionary bout and slowing-down of overall industrial production in the post-flood economy has been the most striking feature of the country's import sector so far this year.

Letter of Credits (L/Cs) opened for industrial imports during the first half of the current financial year (1984-85) were valued at only Taka 838.78 crore against the annual allocation of Taka 2976 crore for the same under the import policy for the year. The industrial imports in the private sector were valued at Taka 563.42 crore and those in the public sector at Taka 275.36 crore during the period under report.

Commercial imports during July-December 1984 had however recorded a sharp growth. L/Cs opened during the period for such imports exceeded the annual allocation under the import policy for the same. Official statistics showed that L/Cs were opened for commercial imports during the period under report for an aggregate amount of Taka 827.11 crore as against the annual allocation of Taka 500 crore for the same. Private sector importers opened L/Cs in the commercial import sector for an amount of Taka 794.13 crore and public sector Taka 32.98 crore during the first half of the current shipping period (1984-85).

Sugar, edible oil, cement, second hand clothings and C.I. sheets were the principal items under commercial imports. L/Cs opened for import of sugar were valued at over Taka 200 crore and those for edible oil at Tk 75 crore during July-December period of fiscal year 1984-85. For cement, second-hand clothings and C.I. sheets the import operations as reflected in the related aggregate value of L/Cs opened were maintained at Tk 30 crore, Taka 27 crore and Tk 10 crore respectively. A substantial quantity of sugar and second-hand clothings imported into the country has already been smuggled out to neighbouring India according to informed sources.

Sluggish Production

Meanwhile knowledgeable circles informed this correspondent that sluggish industrial production performance during the first half of the current financial year was responsible for lags in industrial imports. The domestic demand for industrial products had recorded a substantial decline due to

deterioration income situation in the wake of the devastating floods, the same circles pointed out. Many of the industrial units both in public and private sectors maintained as the knowledgeable circles observed their production operations mainly through depletion of inventories of raw materials imported during the last year without taking any major recourse to fresh imports during the first half of the current financial year.

Besides the industrial and commercial imports, the imports of POL (Petroleum, Oil and Lubricants) were valued at Taka 609.06 crore during July-December period of the current fiscal year as against the annual allocation of Taka 875 crore for the same under the import policy for 1984-85.

The total imports covered under the import policy (which excludes the import of foodgrains capital machinery etc) for 1984-85 were valued as the aggregate amount of L/Cs opened under industrial commercial and POL imports showed at Taka 2274.95 crore during the first half of the current fiscal year. This amount in nominal Taka terms was about 50 percent higher than the one during the corresponding period last year. The total allocation under the annual import policy for 1984-85 announced in July last stands at Taka 4351 crore.

The bulk of the funds for import operations in the commercial imports sector during the first half of the current fiscal year came from the secondary exchange market sources under the Wage Earners Scheme (WES) and Export Performance Licence (XPL). The shares of WES and XPL in commercial imports stood at Taka 608.64 crore and Taka 161.73 crore respectively which thus together accounted for 93 percent of total commercial imports. Under cash credit and barter allocations the value of commercial imports stood respectively at Taka 19.96 crore, Taka 28 crore and Taka 8.78 crore during the period under report.

In the industrial imports sector credit funds were the major source of import financing during July-December 1984. An amount to Taka 340.10 crore was thus provided under credits and this amount was about 40 percent of total value of industrial imports for which the L/Cs were opened during the period under report. WES funds provided Taka 205.58 crore and XPL Taka 78.96 crore for financing the industrial imports during the same period. The shares of cash and barter in industrial imports stood at Taka 182.72 crore and Taka 31.42 crore respectively.

In the POL import sector the major financing during July-December 1984 was from the cash source with its share of Taka 499.11 crore. The imports of POL under WES and barter during the same period were at the levels of Taka 90.35 crore and Taka 19.60 crore respectively.

CSO: 4600/1341

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

MUSLIM LEAGUE SPLIT--A new National Committee of Bangladesh Muslim League was formed Sunday with Al-Haj Shamsul Huda, Mr Rasiduzzaman and Al-Haj Md Jamir Ali as its President, Executive President and Secretary General respectively. The committee, which includes 17 vice-presidents, 9 secretaries, 11 joint secretaries and as many assistant secretaries besides 155 working committee members, was formed at a meeting of party leaders, workers and members at residence of Al-haj Shamsul Huda, said a press release issued by the committee. The meeting, chaired by Al-haj Shamsul Huda, who was so long a member of the Muslim League presidium, pointed out that the constitution of the party formed by late Khan A. Sabur did not provide for any presidium or supreme council which were features of political organisations based on communist and socialist ideals. The meeting said it therefore deemed the presidium as dissolved. The meeting directed the youth wing of the party, Juba Muslim League, led by Advocate Khandaker A. Quayyum and Prof Md Delwar Hosain Nannu, to gear up its activities. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Feb 85 pp 1, 8]

ARRESTS IN INDIA--Manikganj, Feb 11--Four Bangladeshi citizens coming from Pakistan were arrested by Shibhalaya police on Sunday. All the arrested persons were sent to Dhaka today for further police investigation. Arrested persons were identified, according to police, as Md Noor Kamal, Md Akel Ali Abdul Aziz and Amin Sharif of Patiya, Chittagong. While questioned the arrested persons told Manikganj police that they were earlier caught by the Rajasthan police of India near the Indo-Pak border. The Rajasthan police sent them to the court which sentenced them to suffer three months' RI each. The Indian government, according to police, forwarded them to Bangladesh on completion of the period. Police further told the New Nation that 47 Bangladeshi citizens coming from Pakistan were caught by the Indian police while they were coming to their homeland through India. All of them were convicted, said police sources. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 12 Feb 85 p 1]

IMMINENT DIPLOMATIC CHANGES--There will be a string of changes in the top diplomatic assignments of the country. Five ambassadors and two Directors General will be shifted from the head office and one capital to another. Mr Abdul Momen Chowdhury, Director General Administration has been tipped as Bangladesh High Commissioner to Kenya and Mr Khursheed Hamid, another Director General in the Foreign Office will go to Yugoslavia as Bangladesh

Ambassador. Mr Nazrul Islam now in Yugoslavia will go to Kuwait. Mr Nazrul Islam replaces Maj Gen (Retd) Shamsuzzaman who has been recalled. Mr Hedayet Ahmed, Bangladesh Ambassador to Egypt is going to Jeddah, replacing Mr Mohammad Mohsin. Mr Mohsin will go to Brussels. Mr Manzur Ahmed Chowdhury now in Brussels will go to Algeria. Mr Masud Ahmed now in Algeria is being called back. This will also prompt changes in the position of the Directors' General in the Foreign Office. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 12 Feb 85 p 1]

ADB LOAN--Manila, Feb 5 (AFP)--The Asian Development Bank (ADB) today approved a 39 million dollar loan for Bangladesh to boost the productivity of its livestock, the bank's headquarters here said. The loan will partly finance a project to improve animal nutrition, breeding and health, and to strengthen field services in that country, a bank spokesman said. The project will provide farmers with four million draft animals for crop production and supplement the national diet with animal protein, the spokesman added. He said it would also enable the country to feed three million people a year, raise the incomes of 2.7 million farming families, and produce at least 200 million doses of vaccines and medicines yearly. The UNDP will provide an additional grant of 3.5 million dollars while the rest of the 48.8 million dollar total cost will be borne by the government of Bangladesh, he added. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Feb 85 pp 1, 8]

UNCTAD ELECTION--Geneva, Feb 2 (BSS)--Bangladesh has been elected unanimously Chairman of the Asian group of 'Group of 77' in the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for next three months from the February one this year, reports BSS. Bangladesh permanent representative to the United Nations office here, Mr A.H.S. Ataul Katim, assumed the chairmanship yesterday. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 3 Feb 85 p 1]

ISLAMIC FRONT DEMAND--An extended meeting of the 16-party Islam Jukto Front which ended on Thursday called upon the Government to hold parliamentary poll in April as scheduled. Presided over by Maj (Retd) M. Afsaruddin, the meeting said that with a view to holding free and fair elections, the President must ensure that he would not keep any link with any political party overtly or covertly. On the other hand, the administration must be asked to remain neutral. The meeting called for reducing the amount of security deposit from Tk 10 thousand to Tk two thousand. The meeting was also addressed by Maulana Sheikh Abaidullah bin Sayeed Jalalabadi, Advocate M.A. Latif Majumde, and Ms Abdul Hafiz Chowdhury, A.K.M. Siddiquallah Maulana Ruhul Amin and Maulana Khairul Islam Jessori. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 9 Feb 85 p 3]

HUMAN RIGHTS DEMANDED--The Committee for Fundamental Human Rights and Legal Aid on Wednesday demanded speedy trial of the prisoners now under detention to save them from a long trial process. Presided over by Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Chairman of the Committee, it demanded immediate release of all persons detained under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure against whom no specific charge could be brought. Persons convicted under Martial Law must be given right to appeal to the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, the committee demanded. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 7 Feb 85 p 10]

CSO: 4600/1347

INDIA

PAPER REPORTS ON EARLY STEPS OF RAJIV GOVERNMENT

Reshuffle of Secretaries

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 13--In the biggest ever reshuffle of secretaries to the Government at the Centre announced any time in a single instalment, as many as 36 senior officers have been shifted, promoted or sent back to their States.

The former Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh, Mr. G. V. Ramakrishna, now Secretary of the Sarkaria Commission, has been appointed Secretary of Petroleum, and his place has been taken by Mr. M. K. Venkateswaran from the Karnataka cadre.

The Chief Economic Adviser to the Government, Mr. Vimal Jalan, who is a Special Secretary at present, has been promoted to the rank of a full Secretary and given charge of the Department of Banking in addition to his present post. The Additional Secretary in charge of Banking, Mr. V. K. Dhar, has been promoted as Revenue Secretary in place of Mr. K. N. Singh who has been moved to the Statistics Department.

The new Steel Secretary will be Mr. R. P. Khosla, who is now Secretary of Social Welfare. The present Steel Secretary, Mr. P. K. Basu, has been appointed Chairman of the National Mineral Advisory Board, while Mr. B. K. Rao, now Director-General of Shipping, takes over as Secretary of the Department of Mines.

An interesting new appointment is that of Mr. B. B. Vohra, a former Secretary of Petroleum and a noted authority on environment, as Chairman of the Advisory Board on Energy. An officer known for his ability and integrity, he was unjustly persecuted during the Janata period by being arrested and implicated in a French oil deal along with Indira Gandhi and others who were out of office at that time. But he was subsequently exonerated and reinstated as a Secretary to the Government.

The other appointments announced today include the promotion of Mr. U. C. Pandya, Chief Secretary of Himachal Pradesh, as Secretary of Civil Supplies. Mr. T. K. Vijayaraghavan, now an Additional Secretary in the same Ministry, as Secretary of Food, the transfer of Mrs. Sarla Grewal from Education to Health and Family Welfare, and Miss Roma Majumdar from Statistics to Social Welfare.

The present Director of the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy of Public Administration in Mussoorie, Mr. K. Ramanujam, has been appointed Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms which is now under the Prime Minister's charge. The Secretary of Tourism, Miss Kusumalata Mittal has been moved as Secretary of the Official Languages Commission. One of the advisers to the Planning Commission, Mr. D. Bandopadhyaya, has been promoted as Secretary of Rural Development. The present Special Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and Rehabilitation, Mr. H. M. S. Bhatnagar has been made Secretary of the Ministry. The new Secretary of the Department of Youth and Sports will be Mr. R. Gopalaswami who is at present in the Department of Rural Development.

The new Department of Forests and wildlife will have Mr. T. N. Seshan of the Department of Space as its Secretary and Mr. L. H. A. Rego will be a Special Secretary in addition.

The present Secretary of the Department of Personnel and Administrative Reforms, Mr. U. C. Agarwal, and the Secretary of Mines, Mr. Mohinder Singh, will be Officer on Special Duty with the rank of secretaries in the Cabinet Secretariat. Mr. M. Subramanian has been shifted from Civil Supplies to Agriculture and Cooperation, Mr. S. S. Verma who is Director-General of AIR, has been appointed Secretary of Textiles in place of Mr. Harbans Singh, who goes to the Bureau of Public Enterprises, Mr. D. N. Ghosh, now Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Steel and Mines, has been made Secretary of Defence Production.

Mr. Y. S. Das of Atomic Energy Commission becomes Secretary of Culture and Mr. Anand Sarup, Additional Secretary of Commerce has been made Secretary of Education.

Three officers of the rank of Secretary, Mr. C. R. Vaidyanathan (Health and Family Planning), Mr. R. K. Shastri (Official Languages Commission), Mr. S. P. Mukherjee (Agriculture), are being reverted to their respective State cadres.

Mrs. Kapila Vatsayan, Additional Secretary in the Department of Culture, has been appointed Director of Indira Gandhi Cultural Complex with the rank of a full Secretary to the Government.

Problems of Workload

Madras THE HINDU in English 14 Feb 85 p 1

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 13--The expected shake-up of the higher bureaucracy at the Centre has more or less been completed with the latest instalment of secretarial changes announced tonight, before the new Government gets down to

the tasks of implementing its electoral promises in some selective spheres with greater dedication and dynamism.

But it will not be possible to inspire greater confidence among the people until the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, makes comparable changes at the political level as well. This is to ensure that Ministers of ability and integrity are entrusted at least with the more important economic ministries which call for a deeper understanding of the complexities of development.

Still some way to go: The picture will not be complete until the impending cabinet expansion after the Assembly elections, probably before the start of the budget session of Parliament. It is for this reason that the Government continues to give the impression that it is still in transition and will take more time to come to grips with the many difficult problems facing the country.

The Prime Minister has been privately seeking the advice of talented people from different professions, to get the benefit of their collective wisdom in charting out his own set of priorities. Unfortunately, the prevailing atmosphere of ad hocism in the functioning of Government is cramping the style of his colleagues. It is not Mr. Gandhi alone who is burdened with an enormous workload, but some of the senior cabinet members too. Mr. V. P. Singh has so many things to do that it has become almost impossible for him to do justice to any one.

Overworked: At a time when he should be devoting his entire attention to budget preparation, the Finance Minister is required to hold concurrent charge of commerce, in addition to the time-consuming responsibility of election work and party management in his home State. The result is that his whole day is taken up by party work, and he can attend to his official duties only at night.

The present unevenness in the allocation of portfolios has imposed a heavy strain on a few Ministers, leaving others with less work than they are capable of handling. This dispensation has also impeded the growth of a new team spirit.

Room for improvement: Mr. Gandhi's well-wishers who repose a lot of faith in him, expect the young Prime Minister to remove these distortions, thus enabling the more promising new Ministers to display their talents and function in their respective domains with a feeling of self-assurance. For this reason, many political observers here attach a lot of importance to the proposed cabinet expansion.

The Prime Minister has been working on an economic package which will be partly included in the budget and partly implemented through administrative measures. The implementation of these measures is inter-linked with his promise of a clean and efficient Government. This is why he has been attaching considerable importance to the reorganisation of the higher bureaucracy, to make it a more dependable instrument for carrying out the prescribed policies and programmes.

No signs of break: However, there is no indication yet that Mr. Gandhi and his advisers are prepared to take bold and innovative steps, in a break with the shibboleths of the past that impeded the country's progress by breeding a negative attitude towards growth, distorting priorities and blindly adhering to restrictive policies that had clearly outlived their relevances. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's talk of stamping out the scourge of black economy has not been followed up by firm measures to deal with tax evasion, political corruption and gross abuses of patronage.

The Government does not realise that a saturation point has been reached in taxation at the present level of development. Any attempt to raise additional resources by imposing more taxes is going to be a self-defeating exercise. It is going to lead to more evasion, generation of more black money and more corruption both in public life and administration.

Analyst on Leadership Style

Madras THE HINDU in English 17 Feb 85 p 2

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] THE Government of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is now roughly half way through its transition from the heady joys of an unprecedented electoral victory to the hard realities of ruling this complex country beset with many baffling problems. As one who was suddenly catapulted into the position of Prime Minister in the most traumatic circumstances, long before he was mentally prepared to shoulder this great responsibility, he has done extraordinarily well in this short period in transforming this great challenge into a good opportunity to prove his mettle as a promising young leader with a mind of his own, who is capable of making a refreshing break with the murky past to the extent possible in the present circumstances.

The amazing zeal with which Mr. Rajiv Gandhi campaigned almost single-handed in the parliamentary elections, no doubt, impressed both his admirers and critics, but before he could settle down to the tasks of governance, he is involved in an equally exhausting campaign in the current Assembly elections. The result is that he has not been able to give his undivided attention to the administration to get things done for fulfilling his many promises to the people. He will be preoccupied soon with the budget session of Parliament which will go on till the end of May, before he takes off on his foreign visits, leaving him with little scope for making any profound impact during his first few formative months of office.

The Prime Minister has certainly shaken up the bureaucracy at the Centre that had become sloppy over the years and run down, but he has also realised to his dismay that the human material at his disposal is roughly the same that cannot be expected to perform miracles even in the absence of undue political interference with the administration. There are about 80 officers of Secretary rank at the Centre and he has changed about half of them through promotions, transfers and reversions to give a new look to his Government. Almost all the important Ministries with the exception of Defence have new Secretaries, but the process of improving the calibre of the bureaucracy at the middle levels is yet to be initiated for enhancing the quality of the administration.

Real Head of the Services

The appointment of Mr. P. K. Kaul, an able officer with varied experience, a hard-working and imaginative civil servant with a passion for efficiency and rectitude, as Cabinet Secretary has been widely welcomed by the bureaucracy, because he can be depended upon to safeguard the interests of the services, without playing favourites or succumbing to excessive political interferences. The hallmark of his stewardship has already been felt in the choice of the new Secretaries for many ministries and departments announced last week. He was also able to get deserving officers promoted and the disappointing ones shifted to less exacting positions because the Prime Minister was satisfied with the objectivity and propriety of his recommendations.

Despite the increasing concentration of power in the Prime Minister's Secretariat in Indira Gandhi's time, her Principal Secretary, Dr. P. C. Alexander, and the former Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Krishnaswamy Rao Sahib, were able to work in harmony because the two were complementary personalities, who functioned in close concern consulting each other and sharing their knowledge on almost every issue of importance. But now there is going to be a qualitative change since the Prime Minister is not likely to appoint a principal secretary to provide higher direction to the services in his name from this pivotal point in the Government.

As the present Parliamentary Secretary, Mr. Arun Singh, is functioning as a political adviser to the Prime Minister and exercising a decisive voice in administrative matters because of his proximity to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, the new Secretary when appointed will be a less important figure in the changed context, serving only as an administrative channel between the Prime Minister and the various ministries and departments. The Cabinet Secretary is reemerging in the new dispensation as the real head of the services and principal adviser to the Prime Minister on all major matters of administration.

But no Prime Minister can create an illusion of a change for the better by merely shaking up the bureaucracy, if he does not take matching steps to improve the quality of political leadership by shedding deadwood and inducting more promising persons into the Government. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi has certainly displayed considerable courage and firmness of purpose in denying the Congress (I) ticket to many odious characters and also dropping several controversial figures from the Government. But he has not been able to display, either through lack of adequate information or want of time in the hurly-burly of meeting the deadlines for filing nominations, the same degree of determination in picking and choosing better men to improve the calibre of representation in legislatures or the quality of the Central and the State Governments.

The country remains burdened with a top heavy administration that has expanded enormously since Independence and a sub-standard leadership that is unable to catch up with lost opportunities or comprehend the full magnitude of the many challenges facing the nation. It is not enough to have an earnest and well-meaning Prime Minister at the helm, if the elephantine machinery of Government under him has become too unweildy to be whipped back into shape through shock treatment or the ruling party is so devoid of talent that he has to seek

advice from outside all the time to have the benefit of better informed opinion. The promise to give the country a clean and efficient government cannot be implemented without restoring the missing values, reviving an atmosphere of greater rectitude in public life and creating a reassuring feeling of change in the outlook of the ruling elite and attitudes of the Government.

The current spy scare has done considerable harm by shaking the morale of the bureaucracy making almost everybody in sensitive positions feel that he might be a victim of a witch-hunt. The security services entrusted with the investigation have gone berserk with their own brand of Swadeshi McCarthyism by jumping to conclusions and tarnishing reputations through premature publicity given to the confessions of the accused persons. The Government put the lid only after a lot of damage had been done to its reputation by this bizarre handling of the episode.

The security services too have been demoralised by the talk of another over-haul so soon after the shake up that followed Indira Gandhi's assassination. Nobody in the Intelligence Bureau, RAW or CBI, knows when the axe is going to fall next and who are going to be the scapegoats if it does, as expected, in the not too distant future. The need for holding these agencies on a tighter leash, in a country where the very name of the police has become synonymous with brutality, corruption, inefficiency and fabrication of evidence that are largely a legacy of British rule, combined with the increasing political interference after Independence, has never been dealt with in an objective manner to improve its efficiency, insulate it from outside pressures and infuse a new sense of pride into it.

The armed forces are comparatively free from political dominance, but here again the Government has tried to placate them by doling out periodic concessions in the form of better pay scales and promotion opportunities without evolving a proper equation with civil authority at appropriate levels to sustain their professional importance.

Similarly, in the matter of diplomatic appointments too the new Government has to ensure that politicians who cannot be accommodated elsewhere are not dumped on important countries merely to provide them with sinecures.

A sound personnel policy, with well established procedures for promotion and supersession, retirement and extension, is essential for sustaining the pride of the services, whether it is in the civilian or military spheres. It is not only the economic administration that has been impaired by the corrupting influences of wheeler-dealers with high political connections. There are also empire-builders and flatterers operating within the corridors of power who have been influencing postings and promotions causing resentment among the services. It is not easy to clear up all these cobwebs and sanitise the whole system, but a promising beginning has to be made by respecting the established conventions before anything else can be done to establish a new milieu and create a new administrative culture for running the Government.

The great assets of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi that keep him going in the after-glow of his phenomenal victory are his modesty, candour, sincerity and equanimity which have collectively helped to project a very agreeable image of a young and earnest Prime Minister who might measure up to the many difficult tasks facing him with quiet confidence. The image builders of his mother used to portray her as a very courageous woman imbued with a sense of mission who stood up to her adversaries with a combination of ruthlessness and compassion. Her son has been cast in just the opposite mould as a calm, cool and unperturbable young man who keeps his inner thoughts to himself and does not allow his confidants to exceed their assigned functions.

The mysterious backroom boys in Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's entourage have not emerged as his conscience-keepers, although they manage to misuse his name at times. But none of them has been able to arrogate to himself the role of his mouthpiece to whom even his Cabinet colleagues, not to speak of members of Parliament, senior officials and even foreign diplomats, have to look up for advice or approval of their actions. The very process of reattuning the political dispensation and administrative system to this new style of Rajiv's leadership, which is quiet different from the way Indira Gandhi chose to function in her years of office, will take time to percolate through various layers of Indian life to create a lasting impact on the minds of the people.

Right Instincts

Meanwhile, he has to concentrate on the more mundane tasks of administration by extricating himself from less important diversions. He will have to strike a better balance between his preoccupations on the home front and foreign policy pursuits that take up a lot of time especially when the Prime Minister is also the Foreign Minister and needs to be consulted even on routine issues. His schedule of foreign visits is already heavy for the rest of this year, leaving him with relatively less time to cope with the domestic situation. After a brief trip to Bhutan, he is due to visit Moscow, Paris, Cairo and Algiers on his way to or return from Washington. He will be going to New York again at the end of September for the 40th anniversary of the United Nations, besides meeting other commitments in the course of the year in his capacity as current chairman of the Non-aligned Movement.

The Prime Minister has rightly decided to accord greater priority to improvement of relations with neighbouring countries including China which calls for a greater perseverance than taking a principled stand on international problems of greater importance. But it is not possible to normalise relations with neighbours until one's own house has been set in order by settling problems like Punjab and Assam. A good Government has to concentrate on orderly growth to give the people a sense of fulfilment which in the long run is the only way of eradicating the evils of religious animosities and regional tensions. And if the people are reposing a lot of faith in his leadership, it is because Rajiv has so far displayed the right instincts along with a reassuring touch of maturity and realism without allowing himself to be swayed by pre-conceived notions.

INDIA

PAPERS DISCUSS DIFFERENCES OF VIEW WITHIN CPI-M

INDIAN EXPRESS Political Correspondent

BK160618 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 7 Feb 85 p 1

[By H. K. Dua, political correspondent]

[Text] New Delhi, Feb. 6--The old guard in the Communist Party of India (Marxist) has run into fairly deep trouble following the party's debacle at the Lok Sabha election. The younger leaders of the party are believed to have decided to ask the senior CPM leaders to quit key posts in the interests of the party.

The younger group in the party is in fact demanding that Mr Jyoti Basu should quit as Chief Minister of West Bengal and take over as the general secretary of the State party. The move is aimed at serving two purposes: one is to conveniently get Mr Basu out of the government; the other is to make Mr Saroj Mukherjee give up the key party post of the general secretary of the party West Bengal unit.

The young leaders want Mr Jyoti Basu to be replaced by Mr Benoy Chowdhury, Minister of Land and Land Revenue in the Jyoti Basu ministry, according to CPM sources.

Among the young CPM leaders who are subjecting the senior leaders to attack are six leaders. Mr Biman Bose, a member of the secretariat of the West Bengal state party; Mr Subhas Chakravarty, a minister in the Jyoti Basu government; Mr Budha Deb Battacharya, former minister of information and publicity in the Left Front government; Mr Anil Biswas, who is editor of the party's Bengali mouthpiece, Ganashakti; Mr Shyamal Chakravarty, who is heading the Calcutta Transport Corporation; and Mrs Shyamali Gupta, general secretary of the party's womens' wing called Ganatantra Mahila Samiti and wife of a former power minister, the late Shankar Gupta.

The young leaders' group is going to be rather vocal at the crucial meeting of the West Bengal state party committee going to be held in Calcutta from February 9 to February 10, according to CPM sources.

Their attack is directed not only against Mr Jyoti Basu and Mr Saroj Mukherjee, but also against such aged leaders as Mr E. M. S. Namboodiripad, Mr Samar Mukherjee, Mr P. Ramamurthy, Mr Harkishan Singh Surjeet, Mr Nripen Chakravarty, Mr B. T. Ranadive, and Mr P. Sundaraya. All these leaders are above 70 and have been at the helm for decades.

The group of six was groomed by the late Pramod Das Gupta, who led the West Bengal party for several years before he died in 1982. The group feels that after Pramod Das Gupta's death the party's line and the conduct of its affairs have been responsible for the kind of fate it is meeting now.

It is possible that of all the aged leaders of the party, only Mr M. Basava-punniah may be found acceptable by the group of the young CPM leaders.

It is not their age alone that is standing against the senior leaders of the Communist Party of India (Marxist) but also the political line that is being found wanting by the younger elements in the party.

The younger group thinks that the CPM leadership has been wrongly following a soft line towards the Congress (I) because of the fear that a policy of confrontation might have led the Centre to topple the CPM government in West Bengal and Tripura, the only two states where the CPM is in power.

At the same time, the younger group is definitely more anti-Moscow than the party's senior leaders and more radical also in the state's communist politics.

Review by Politburo

New Delhi PATRIOT in English 15 Feb 85 p 4

[Article by Arindam Sen Gupta]

[Text]

Has the "people's party" failed to feel the pulse of the people? The leaders are not very certain, the cadre is confused and angry. The search for reasons that led to its being mauled in the Lok Sabha poll is still going on in the Communist Party of India-Marxist. The party's Politburo has already made a preliminary study of the causes and now the debate has passed on to the State level.

The Politburo met in the Capital on 3-4 January, within two days of the new Government being sworn in. Discussions were engendered not from a subjective feeling of "loss of prestige" at the party's strength in Parliament being almost halved, but from a realisation that there was something intrinsically wrong with its electoral-tactical line. Something that had led to its alienation from a sizable section of its sympathisers.

At the end of the two-day long re-

view of the election results, the politburo admitted that the election had been a "setback" for the party. The reasons for it were given as follows:

--the slogan of a "coalition Government" at the Centre had been counterproductive;

--the Opposition parties with whom the CPI-M had allied tended to dismiss the fundamental issues before the nation: national unity and integrity;

--the working class in certain areas had got alienated from the party;

--in Kerala the Left coalition did not appear to the electorate qualitatively very different from the ruling one;

--some party leaders had been irresponsible in their utterances which adversely affected the party's image.

Quite clearly, something was

wrong in the State of West Bengal. Calculations had gone awry—whereas party estimates put the number of “sure seats” for the CPI-M at 29, eventually it got 18 seats with 10 sitting MPs losing out to their Congress-I rivals. The Front, in all, had lost 12 seats, including traditional strongholds. That the people were dissatisfied with the performance of the Left Front Government was evident.

“Some State ministers had taken the party’s differences with the Congress-I to the level of petty housewife squabbles—a kind of behaviour that would upset the genuine sympathisers of the party”, said a CPI-M activist soon after the Politburo meeting. The reference, no doubt, was to ministers such as Mr Ashok Mitra and Mr Prasanta Sur whose first reaction to any people’s problem would be to wave an accusing finger at the Centre.

Mr Sur’s statements on the Calcutta Metro came under criticism. When the rains had flooded the Metro, Mr Sur had said that given the kind of construction, he had known of such a predicament all along. When a section of the project had been completed, he had called it “useless”. What did the party gain by such utterances? In a city like Calcutta where things get rarely done (whatever may be the reason for that), any development would naturally be welcomed by the people. And they had welcomed the Metro, too, if nothing else for its novelty. So why ridicule it and thus rub the people the wrong way.

Behind the criticism of this particular minister was an attack on the attitude of the Front Government towards problems and their resolution. Whatever the merit of the case against the Centre merely attacking it *ad infinitum, ad nauseum*, seemed only an attempt at passing the buck. Even under the given constraints, the Front Government’s performance might have been better. This was admitted by the party when it said that the administration needed to be toned up and did not rule out a reallocation of portfolios.

The talk of a “coalition Government” at the Centre had a particularly adverse effect in the politically conscious State of West Bengal. On the one hand, the Left Front spoke of the danger arising to the nation from imperialist machinations and, on the

other, it had allied with forces like the Janata and the DMKP that ridiculed all talk of imperialist danger.

It was a kind of situation, the Politburo pointed out, that made people believe that the Front did not seriously believe in what it was saying. To make matters worse, the Front chairman, Mr Saroj Mukherjee, made the ludicrous suggestion of having Mr Jagjivan Ram as the Opposition’s candidate for the Prime Minister’s post.

All in all, the impression imparted was that the Front, like the “bourgeois Opposition parties”, was merely engaged in electoral manoeuvres instead of taking on genuine issues and problems by their horns.

These lapses apart, the Politburo took note of the State unit’s glossing over certain ominous portents since 1980. Other than byelection reversals, every poll since 1980 indicated that, even if the Front’s vote remained steady, that of the Congress-I was increasing alarmingly. That was not taken heed of. The Howrah municipality poll showed that the working class too was getting disenchanted with the Front. That too was sought to be dismissed as an “aberration” that did not indicate the workers’ general attitude towards the Government.

These are all symptoms of an organisational weakness which made the party detached from realities and the people. This was even while the CPI-M’s membership in the State had gone up from 35,000 in 1980 to 1.18 lakh in 1984—the mere increase in membership had not ensured that the feelings at the grass-root level reached the top leadership.

Despite these shortcomings the CPI-M-led Front had been able to retain the majority of seats in West Bengal, but, in Kerala, the poll was an unmitigated disaster for the party. Not only did five of the six sitting CPI-M MPs lose the election; compared to previous elections (1980 and 1982) the votes polled by the Marxist-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) either registered absolute decline or increased marginally in some constituencies. The Congress-I led United Democratic Front (UDF), at the same time increased its share of votes everywhere. Even more alarming, wrote Mr EMS Namboodiripad in the party paper *People’s Democracy*, was the rise of a third front consisting

of the BJP and the emergent Hindu Munnani, which polled a substantial number of votes, in one constituency more than a lakh.

Given the peculiar characteristics of the State's politics where caste and communal polarisation had become disturbingly complete, the Left forces, in spite of their long influence in the State, had failed not only to reverse the process but had perhaps fallen a victim to it. While the UDF was seen to have taken these forces under its umbrella and, thereby, brightened its electoral prospect, there was also an "impression gaining ground that the LDF was pampering minority communalism as the UDF". These were the very words of EMS as he asked every LDF constituent to consider "whether a new approach was necessary to majority as well as minority communalism".

In the context of Kerala, this remark was caused by the accommodation of the AIML, the other Muslim League faction in the State, in the LDF and it being declared a secular party by the State leaders. EMS himself was guilty of giving such a certificate to the AIML, though---to be only fair to him---he had attacked the Muslim personal law to the chagrin of the AIML. In fact, his ambivalent attitude reflected the Marxists' ambivalence towards minority communalism.

This question was now more important in the national context, following the events that preceded Indira Gandhi's assassination. The riots in Delhi and elsewhere painfully brought across the fact that minority communalism gave a direct fillip to majority communalism. The two

were merely different sides of the same coin, the two faces of the hydraheaded monster called communalism. And playing down one did not help in containing the other.

Lessons might have been drawn from Tripura, a State where the CPI-M-led Left Front had done extremely well in containing the situation in the face of grave provocations from extremist-communal groupings such as the Tripura National Volunteers (TNV) and the TUJS. Its success was apparent in the election results: the party retained both seats and, more remarkably, got most of its votes from the tribals, the mischief of the TNV and the TUJS, notwithstanding.

Tripura, say the CPI-M leaders' is the silver lining in an otherwise despondent situation. The party not only countered the powerful Congress-I-TUJS combine politically, it has managed to keep the tribals from coming under the influence of extremist groups. It has also taken lots of violence perpetrated on party followers by these armed groups with admirable courage and conviction.

And therein lies the main lesson of the election---the ability to lead united mass action based on secular democratic forces, whether the party be in the Government or not. As the process of reviewing continues at the State levels, appropriate lessons would be drawn as to where lay the faults and how to rectify them. Ultimately, the leaders are concerned to rid the party of its "revolutionary flabbiness" that has crept in and impart to it the "revolutionary elan" that the CPI-M did have not very long ago.

INDIA

PAPERS REPORT RAMIFICATIONS OF INSURGENT CHIEF'S DEATH

Setback to CPI-M

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 13 Feb 85 p 9

[Text] AGARTALA, Feb. 12--The recent killing of the former "Army of Tripura People's Liberation Organization" president, Binanda Jamatiya, is considered a major setback for the ruling CPI(M), both politically and organizationally. Jamatiya was not only preparing the ground for a large-scale desertion in the ranks of the underground Tribal National Volunteer rebels, but was trying to frustrate the growing influence of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samity, the CPI(M)'s main rival in the tribal belt.

The CPI(M)'s apparent move to weaken the TUJS had resulted in the emergence of the Tripura Hill People's Party with the TUJS dissidents led by Mr. Debabrata Koloi the samity's former assistant general secretary, in March 1982. The THPP is now an ally of the CPI(M). Jamatiya and his followers originally belonged to the TUJS. He helped the CPI(M) to split TUJS votes in some of the tribal Christian-dominated areas in the north and some pockets of south district in the last Lok Sabha elections.

The CPI(M) is still entrenched deeply among the "Tripuris", who constitute almost 60 per cent of the State's tribal population. The officials of the State crime investigation department, who are now inquiring into the brutal incident, feel that the circumstances leading to Jamatiya's killing are mysterious.

The Chief Minister, Mr. Nripen Chakrabarti, has, however, held the local TUJS activists fully responsible for the killing of the former rebel leader and his close associate, Hrishikumar Jamatiya, in a predawn attack on February 7. Mr. Chakrabarti said that it was in retaliation to the killing of Siddhikumar Jamatiya, the religious chief of the Jamatiya community as well as a senior leader of the TUJS in September.

Meanwhile, investigation has revealed another episode, Mrs. Rasamanjari Jamatiya (26), from whose house Binanda was dragged out by the killers, had a personal relationship with the deceased. She is a widow. Her husband was "sentenced to death" two years ago by Jamatiya, following a "court martial" order of the ATPLO. Subsequently, following the surrender of the ATPLO, she

was given a Government job at the local Ranjit Nagar colony school at the instance of Jamatiya. The police are now interrogating Mrs Rasamanjari along with others. Most of the tribals deserted their houses in the Kasku hill village for fear of being harassed by the security personnel who have stepped up combing in the area during past few days.

Efforts in Tripura Damaged

Madras THE HINDU in English 18 Feb 85 p 9

[Text]

AGARTALA, Feb. 17.

The effort of the ruling CPI (M) Government in Tripura to win over the extremists has suffered a severe jolt following the murder of Benanda Jamatia, president of the now disbanded extremists organisation, the All-Tripura People's Liberation Organisation (ATPLO). The brutal murder of Benanda and his companion, Hrishya Kumar Jamatia, on February 6 last at Kasku village in Amarpur sub-division of South Tripura District, allegedly by hard-core extremists, has created a flutter throughout the State.

It has also demoralised about 200 of Benanda's followers who, along with their leader, laid down their arms and surrendered to the Government. They are now extremely apprehensive about their own safety, even as they are brooding over their leader's fate, who could not be saved from extremists' bullets despite the Government's security measures for him.

(Benanda's badly mutilated body, testifying torture, was later recovered from the jungle, four km from Kasku.)

Benanda, once the most valued comrade-in-arms of the Tribal National Volunteers (TNV) chief, Bijoy Hrangkhal, broke away from the TNV to form his own organisation, the ATPLO in 1981 and soon stole headlines in the local and national press by indulging in a series of acts of violence and sabotage in different parts of Amarpur sub-division. He and his followers launched numerous attacks on trucks and buses and employed terror tactics to extort money. He masterminded a plot to abduct his one-time mentor, Bijoy Hrangkhal, along with his wife, from his house at Ambassa in North Tripura. Benanda, originally a leader of the Tripura Upajati Juba Samiti (TUJS), had earlier defected to the TNV along with Hrangkhal.

Much-publicised surrender: Benanda's surrender on July 23, 1983, was a much publicised affair with a lot of fanfare. Benanda and his 167 followers laid down their arms before the Deputy Chief Minister, Mr. Dasarath Deb, at Rajabari in Udaipur sub-division of the South Tripura District. Later, he joined the CPI (M) led-tribal frontal organisation, the Tripura Gana Mukti Parishad and was made one of its presidents.

He had since been active politically. Benanda had a creditable record of service among the Christian dominated tribal of Amarpur and Udaipur in the South and North Districts. The CPI (M) tried to utilise Benanda to its best advantage, what with his stature and influence among the prosperous and militant Jamatias.

His followers rallied behind him enthusiastically in his new role. It was necessary for the CPI (M) to counter the considerable clout of the TUJS among the Jamatias who were outside the sphere of the marxists' influence and Benanda seemed to serve the purpose well.

Armed escort: The marxist government took special care for his safety and he was provided with armed escort. Benanda's good offices were utilised to persuade the extremists still waging a "war of vengeance" to join the mainstream by bidding goodbye to arms.

It was at this juncture the macabre murder took place, cutting short Benanda's life and the CPI (M)'s calculations, at least temporarily. The murder of Benanda has triggered a lot of speculations.

Why the murder? A Jamatiya priest, Siddhi Kumar Jamatia, was murdered in September last as he was close to the TUJS. The TUJS leader raised a hue and cry in the Assembly alleging that the suspected murderers of Siddhi Kumar had called on Benanda at his house prior to the murder. It is also publicly stated by the TUJS that Hrishya Kumar Jamatia, who was murdered along with Benanda, was one among the alleged assassins of Siddhi Kumar. It is also confirmed by the marxist Chief Minister, Mr. Nripen Chakraborty, that Hrishya Kumar's name figured in the police report on Siddhi Kumar's murder.

Police arrested three extremists of Sarbong Gaon village, including its Pradhan, Birabarma Jamatia and Dhruba Jamatia, alleged to be the prime suspects. Both of them belong to the TUJS.

Yet another version projects Benanda's murder as a revenge for the murder of the TUJS leader Siddhi Kumar Jamatia. The Chief Minister too is emphatic in his assertion that local TUJS leaders are behind the crime.

It is also said by the source that a few important extremist leaders were due to surrender at Amarpur on February 10 and that arrangements had been made at Benanda's behest. Extremists, therefore, it is claimed, laid a trap for him to lead him to Amarpur to decimate him. It is pointed out that Birabarma Jamatia, one of the arrested suspects, was the first to inform the police about Benanda's murder in the early hours of February 7.

It is said that on February 5, the day before his death, Benanda, had returned to Udaipur village after a visit to Agartala. He is reported to have said that he would rest at his ancestral

home at Dewan Bari village for the next two days and had asked his escort to rest at Udaipur and not to accompany him. Reports say that he, along with Hrishya Kumar and Raja Jamatia (another companion who escaped death by fleeing away), left for Kasku, 19 km from his house in Udaipur sub-division, trekking on foot through jungles. There death awaited him. What led him to dispense with the security guard despite police warning is intriguing.

PTI reports:

Mr. Chakraborty, today rejected the TUJS's demand for CBI inquiry into the killing of Benanda.

CSO: 5650/0070

INDIA

ANALYST SAYS RAJIV YET TO SHOW DYNAMISM

Madras THE HINDU in English 20 Feb 85 p 1

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text] NEW DELHI, Feb. 19--The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and his advisers are working on an economic package that can be implemented in stages in the course of this year to abolish irksome controls, encourage production and promote competition, streamline the tax structure and step up collections, check corruption and black money generation, control inflation through better financial management and offer incentives for foreign investment in some selective spheres.

The first instalment of these changes will be incorporated in the Central budget next month to create the reassuring impression that the new Government is shedding many of the fixations of the past and opting for greater pragmatism.

Tax Concessions?

Apart from providing some marginal tax concessions, the budget is expected to contain several innovative features to assure his admirers and critics alike that Mr. Rajiv Gandhi is ready to give up the restrictive policies that have failed to serve any positive purpose. He is prepared to take the plunge and free the economy to the extent possible in the present circumstances, even at the risk of being accused of abandoning and even reversing the decisions of his mother's Government, that have outlived their utility or become counter-productive in the changed situation.

The Prime Minister is now roughly half way through in his drive to improve the quality of administration by administering a shock treatment to the top bureaucracy and putting his Cabinet colleagues also on probation to get across the message that those who fail to come up to his expectations will have no place in his Government. But in the absence of a proper higher direction, the administrative machinery has not yet settled down to the prescribed norms of governance to be able to inspire fuller confidence in its capacity to live up to the expectations of the people.

Shuffle of Officials

The shifting of Secretaries, sacking of bank executives, and changing of top managers of public sector enterprises makes news, but do not reflect any new dynamism at the nodal points that matter in a government. As the Prime Minister himself has been preoccupied with two election campaigns in the three and half months that he has been in power, he has not been able to get together a team of highly talented persons at different levels who could be depended upon to put new life into his Government.

The new Secretaries, bank executives, managers of public sector enterprises, chairmen of numerous boards and commissions, Cabinet sub-committees and core groups cannot mesh into a functional team that can be depended upon to make the desired impact with a promising performance.

The summary manner in which many senior officials have been changed has made the new incumbents rather over-cautious and doubly defensive in their attitudes, not knowing whether they are going to be backed by the political leadership for decisions taken in good faith that may not be justified by subsequent developments.

The Prime Minister himself has been making numerous promises in his campaign speeches which have generally been welcomed in expectation of some major steps by him to curb political corruption, liberalise the economy and make the administration more responsive to the needs of the people. But the point may be reached soon when those who have given him an unprecedented mandate might start asking what he has done to implement his many promises.

Quick Action

So time is the very essence of Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's well-meaning determination to take some tangible steps for liberalising the politico-economic system with some bold initiatives to capture the imagination of the people. If the budget itself turns out to be a cosmetic exercise with only marginal concessions, the promise of more reliefs at a later stage will not help to sustain in the atmosphere of expectation.

And, in governing a vast and complex country like India with its heavy backlog of baffling problems, a new Prime Minister cannot afford to let an anti-climax set in through delayed response to situations demanding quicker action. Mr. Rajiv Gandhi and his advisers seem to be quite conscious of these pitfalls as the countdown for the finalisation of the budget has begun, leaving them with barely three weeks to provide the promised new direction.

CSO: 4600/1377

INDIA

HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP APPEALS AGAINST SRI LANKA ARMING

Calcutta THE STATESMAN in English 14 Feb 85 p 9

[Text] MADRAS, Feb. 13--The organization for the Protection of Tamils of Eelam from Genocide and other violations of human rights (PROTEG) today appealed to the Portuguese Prime Minister not to supply arms to the Sri Lanka Government.

In the name of campaigning against Tamil militants, the Sri Lanka Government was actually committing "genocide" by killing and starving the Tamil population in the northern and eastern districts of the island republic, it said.

Mr S. C. Chandrahasan, the PROTEG coordinator for India, in a letter to the Portuguese Prime Minister said that it was from Portugal that the missionaries first went to spread the Christian faith in Sri Lanka and that many of the victims of genocide were Tamils who embraced the Catholic religion. Even the clergy in the Tamil districts were being subjected to attacks.

"As a Catholic country with a long tradition of missionary activity, it behoves Portugal not to participate even indirectly in such wanton and cruel acts", the letter said.

While young men between the ages of 15 and 35 were indiscriminately arrested, tortured and killed, the letter said, "Tamil women are held in all male custody and the State has failed to take steps to prevent rape and molestation by members of the Sinhala Sri Lanka armed forces".

Calling upon the Portuguese Prime Minister to desist from supplying arms, the letter said that the defenceless Tamil population was facing annihilation in Sri Lanka as the Government was freely distributing firearms, ammunition and grenades to Sinhala civilians living in Tamil areas. As a result, hundreds of Tamils were fleeing Sri Lanka in small fishing boats and arriving in India.

The fact that Portugal was supplying arms to Sri Lanka became public when a Zaire Airways cargo plane on a flight from Amman to Colombo made an emergency landing at Trivandrum airport last Saturday as it ran out of fuel. The captain of the aircraft, Mr Deric Beverley Wood, a British national, declared that it was carrying general cargo.

When Customs intelligence officers boarded the plane for a routine check, it was found to be loaded with arms and ammunition. It was also discovered that the flight originated from Lisbon, Portugal. The plane was detained and the matter referred to New Delhi.

The use of the Zaire Airways plane instead of Portugal's national carrier and routing the flight through Amman was intended to create the impression that the arms were being supplied by Jordan and not Portugal.

CSO: 4600/1359

INDIA

'HINDU BACKLASH' THEORY ABOUT CONGRESS VICTORY RIDICULED

New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 10 Jan 85 p 4

[Article by Prabhash Joshi: "What Is This Hindu Backlash, Sir?"]

[Text] I knew! The remaining illegitimate, crippled heirs of the liberalism of British rule will view this landslide victory of Congress (I) as a Hindu backlash. We have seen that for the last 3 years, Indira Gandhi was having problems getting votes and support from Sikhs, Muslims and other minorities. Congress, however, had to win the elections. So Indira Gandhi decided to forget the arithmetic involved in the minority vote and turned toward the Hindu majority and rode the wave to win the elections and save the drowning ship of the Congress party!!!

These people think that the conspiracy to establish Sant Bhindranwale in Guru Nanak Niwas and the encouragement of Sikh terrorism was planned to scare the Hindus in Punjab into the Congress camp. The stockpiling of weapons in the Golden Temple was ignored purposely; the police did not try to stop the fortification of the Golden Temple in time. So according to this so-called plan, the involvement of a foreign power was indicated in the Punjab crisis in order to divert people's attention toward dangers to the country and get them to support the Congress party! But was the Hindu vote of Punjab enough to win the national elections?

Indira Gandhi sent the army to the Golden Temple only when every Hindu cried for help in the face of killings of Hindus by the Sikhs and the 'Khalistan' threat. So the Hindus were overjoyed and called her their saviour. The Punjab problem was just another trick that Indira Gandhi played to win the elections! The heirs of the British mentality viewed Indira Gandhi as the possessor of demonic powers and considered her capable of manipulating every accident and problem in the country. A look at last year's newspapers indicates that these intellectuals saw Indira Gandhi burning Punjab merely to aggravate Hindu feelings. This image of Indira Gandhi was projected prominently after the Golden Temple incident.

The only thing these people have not explained is why Indira Gandhi did not fire Beant and Satwant as her personal bodyguards in spite of warnings and objections from her security advisers. They should have simply stated that Indira Gandhi had planned her own assassination! Did she not make Beant and Satwant take vows in the Akal Takhat to kill her? After all, she could not

make Congress win or have Rajiv become the prime minister as long as she was alive. But she managed these feats after her death!

If the liberal intellectuals had explained the death of Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi's landslide victory in those terms, it would have given great pleasure to intellectuals like Khushwant Singh, Amrik Singh and Maheep Singh. They get favorable results without lifting a hand. They do not have the courage or desire to fight factionalism among their own ranks. They want to remain liberals with secular viewpoints. To hide their embarrassment resulting from Indira Gandhi's assassination [by a fellow Sikh], they would like to prove that Rajiv Gandhi's election victory was a shameful incident. What better liberal, secular way can there be to achieve this end than by proving that this victory was a result of Hindu anger. This stand would make way for the slogan proclaiming India as a Hindu nation and the need for a Khalistan [Sikh country] and other "stans."

Some liberal intellectuals believe that the Hindu dynasty of which they were afraid has been established following these elections. Their arithmetic is as simple as 2 and 2 make 4. For the first time in history, Hindus voted like Hindus because they were upset about Indira Gandhi's assassination and worried about the country's unity. They do not declare openly that Indira Gandhi was a Hindu and in order to get Hindu votes encouraged Sikh terrorism and then soiled their holiest shrine under the guise of suppressing terrorism. She then had Bhindranwale and his followers killed by a large army to crush the Sikh pride. Since she did all this to play on Hindu emotions, the Hindus in turn paid her back by electing her son when she was assassinated by her Sikh bodyguards! They imply that the slogans about threats to the country's unity only appeal to Hindus. Why? Because they consider this country their own. In other words, this country does not belong to the minorities, and the majority [Hindus] will decide what the minorities should get. When we look closely at this theory, it means that the only way this country can stay united is when Hindus give up all clout and accept every demand of the minorities. Even then, if these minorities are not satisfied and are worried about their religious identity, then the country should be broken into small portions and each minority should be given an independent country! The Hindu majority should bow down to the minorities!!! A study of the Muslim League and the British imperialist arguments from 1906 to 1947 shows that they followed the same school of thought. The Muslim Leaguers demanded Pakistan on the basis that their religion would not be safe with the Hindu majority. The British were also afraid of the Hindu majority because no ruling minority could consider itself safe. In order to protect themselves, they made us believe that India is not one country; it is a conglomerate of several regions, each with its own language, religion and castes. The British had kept it glued together with the help of their ultra-modern army, better civilization and superior administration. As soon as they left, the country would be destroyed by factional wars.

Thus, the British wanted to stay here and rule with their better civilization, better army and better administrative strategies. After all, if they were not superior, how did they manage to rule the whole country? Now the Muslims must be given a country because did the British not get this country

from them? Since the Sikhs had helped the British during the 1857 rebellion, since Raja Ranjit Singh had ruled Punjab once and since the Sikhs are a martial race, they should be allowed a special place in the armed forces and agriculture! Since the Parsees, Jains, Buddhists and Jews have never ruled, these minorities were not considered for any privileges like the Muslims and Sikhs. The British "justice system" suddenly recognized the fact that the Hindu majority was a danger to all minorities. They believed that these minorities should be given parity by providing extra privileges to them. The two-country idea was born out of this "just" thought. This later proved to be utterly fallacious. The British are gone, but their "offspring" are still here.

In order to prove that they were right and also the authorities, the British had to believe that it was they who formed a country called India. It was they who succeeded in keeping it as one country because it is impossible to make a country of a region with so many languages, castes and religions. Actually, this story about our being a region with so many entities and the British cementing it into a nation has become the trademark of our modern intellectual thought. Thus, there are three indicators of liberal intellectuality. First, Hinduism should be considered a great danger to the country. Second, communalism and factionalism of the minorities should not be considered factionalism. Third, power must be considered imperative for unity. This kind of British mentality has affected not only the liberal intellectuals but also our leaders. Like the British, they keep forgetting that India was a country even before the British arrived here. There were all those religions, castes and languages in that one country. The Hindus were the majority at that time also and they coexisted with other minorities. No other country or religion in the world has as much experience in cooperation and coexistence as has India and the Hindus. This does not mean that no wrongs were done in the name of religion, caste and factions. However, if you take a close look at world history, you will find that persecution against minorities in India occurred less than in any other country. It was during the British rule that communal violence really took root and increased.

This British secularism is considered the holding power that keeps India together as a country. We keep forgetting that in the West the Christian church considers itself over and above the government. Secularism is necessary there for governments to render the church less effective. India does not need help from secularism since the Hindu religion is not organized and never challenged any government. Hindus do not lack religious zeal, but the question of overpowering another state or religion never arose in our history. The British knew it. They did not fear the Hindu religion but their number and the fact that the majority wins the right to govern in a democracy. The only way to let minorities rule in a democracy is to make specific provisions for minorities. That is what the British did. This was not acceptable and when [Mohandas] Gandhi started the "Quit India" movement in 1942, the British warned him that their departure would pave the way for anarchy. Mr Gandhi replied that anarchy was preferable to British rule. The British left but made sure that we could not avoid anarchy. The Sikh panth (church) is following the philosophy of the

Muslim League. The Sikhs are using their religion the same way the Christians used theirs during the Middle Ages. Akali politics have their roots in the British rule. Our liberal intellectuals believe in it. Those who are Hindus among them are worried about the Hindu backlash.

The Sikh, Muslim and Christian intellectuals identify themselves with their religions and not with any intellectual system. Thus, an atheist and a hedonist like Khushwant Singh had to declare himself a Sikh when the Golden Temple was attacked. Another is calling himself a second-class citizen. He was a first-class citizen until the army 'violated' the Golden Temple. Mr Maheep Singh does not see any difference between the orders of maulvis [Muslim priests], preachings from the Akal Takhat [Sikh temple in Delhi] or appeals of Shankracharya [Hindu religious leader]. He believes that Hinduism has become an organized religion just like Sikhism, Islam and Christianity. A scholar of Maheep Singh's caliber is afraid that the Jats will rebel and destroy India if they are not given what they want. Girilal Jain and Jaidev Sethi just cannot analyze our eighth general elections without mentioning the so-called "Hindu backlash," even though after these elections Girilal Jain seems to be happy and Jaidev Sethi scared. What is wrong with our intellectuals? Our liberal intellectuals just do not want to look at India with Indian eyes.

They are amazed at how people from every corner of this country voted similarly. How did these illiterate farmers forget their differences and vote for the supposedly Western concepts of unity and solidarity? Are not the civil service personnel left by the British keeping this country together? How did people become wise? Because they are Hindus? In 1977, these same intellectuals declared that Indians would not favor democracy and civil rights over food and security. At that time, none of the Hindi-speaking states elected even one Congress candidate to parliament. In 1971, these intellectuals said that people would not understand Indira Gandhi's socialist slogans. When people showed that they had understood, the intellectuals said that people are easily fooled by political slogans. In other words, the Indian people do not understand democracy; all they understand is religion, caste, language, regionalism, food and clothes. Whatever our countrymen do, our intellectuals can analyze and understand their action only by using U.S. or British eyes. The famous Hindi poet Tulsi Das has correctly written, "God looks the way you want Him to be." How often will our countrymen have to admonish our intellectuals that they know what they are doing? This country was not made by some British administrator nor is one Rajiv Gandhi running it!

Only an intellectual who thinks he belongs to a better culture and civilization would hate his own country and its people's actions. Such people do not belong to any world. The country will not listen to these people anyway. They will not comprehend that when the unarmed prime minister of our country is assassinated by her own bodyguards, one does not have to be a Hindu to show displeasure. The country's unity and oneness is not the worry of Hindus alone but of all Indians. Were Hinduism an organized religion, India would have become a Hindu country a long time ago. Being Hindu is being secular. Hinduism is not a religion but a faith. Faith means having strength to do your duty. When the people of this country felt that it was their duty to put a stop to religious terrorism and implement democracy, they did it! Now, sir, tell us where the "Hindu backlash" fits in?

INDIA

ARMING OF PAKISTAN DAMAGES INDO-U.S. RELATIONS

Madras THE HINDU in English 13 Feb 85 p 9

[Article by G. K. Reddy]

[Text]

NEW DELHI, Feb. 12.

The U.S. Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Michael Armacost, the second seniormost functionary in the State Department, will be visiting the sub-continent next month for talks on both bilateral and regional issues.

He is due to visit India and Pakistan, but it is not known whether he would be going to Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka also on this occasion.

But the basic purpose of his trip is to explore the prospects for "upgrading" Indo-American relations with some imaginative moves during the visit of the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, to the U.S. in June without detriment to the existing security links with Pakistan.

The main thrust of the U.S. effort to establish better understanding with India will be in the technological sphere to help the country modernise and expand its industry and enhance its agricultural output for the good of its people. It is with this object in view that the U.S. has been pressing India to send an official delegation to Washington soon to settle the procedures for transfer of high technology as a follow up to the Memorandum of Understanding already initialled by representatives of the two Governments.

Right climate: According to diplomatic reports from Washington, the Reagan administration thinks that the present political climate in India is just right for making a renewed effort to work towards a mutually beneficial relationship consistent with their respective interests. It is with this object in view that the Secretary of State, Mr. George Shultz, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee early this month that, as part of a "comprehensive review" of U.S. foreign policy, the administration

hoped to see the relationship with India "improve and flower" as he put it.

In an appreciative reference to the new political atmosphere in India, he said: "I hope that as time passes we will find with his (Mr. Rajiv Gandhi's) leadership and influence, and our own reaction to that, an ability to work in a strong way with the Government of India because it is of such importance". He spoke of his brief meeting with Mr. Rajiv Gandhi at the time of Indira Gandhi's funeral in Delhi, in laudatory terms, while cautioning at the same time that the current U.S. desire for a closer relationship with India should not be misconstrued as a readiness to dilute the security links with Pakistan.

The visit of Mr. Armacost, reflecting this new mood in Washington, is intended to set the tone for improvement of Indo-American relations. But it is not going to be easy for him to perform this rope trick by adhering to the present policy of arming Pakistan with more and more sophisticated weapons-systems.

Any American concessions made to mollify India, through transfer of technology and other overtures, cannot really redress the damage done by the U.S. policy of intensifying the arms race in the sub-continent. The Indo-U.S. relationship has to be viewed in its totality, not compartmentally, for ending the continuing crisis of confidence.

Sri Lanka issue: The only saving grace at the moment is the consistent U.S. refusal to get involved in the Sri Lankan problem. The present administration has been trying to impress upon the Sri Lankan President, Mr. J. R. Jayewardene the need for a political settlement of the Tamil problem to preserve the unity and integrity of this island State. And in the process the U.S. has been urging him to utilise India's good offices in resolving this problem.

IRAN

PRESIDENT INTERVIEWED ON MIDDLE EAST, TERRORISM, MUSLIM GROUPS

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 13 Feb 85 p 3

[Interview with President Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Khamene'i by AL-'ALAM; date and place not specified]

[Text] In an interview with the correspondent of the magazine, AL-'ALAM, Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i stressed the conditions announced by the Islamic Republic of Iran to end the war and said: Iraq does not want peace. Iraq wants to be freed from the trap in which it has fallen. This does not mean that the experience of Iraq's invasion will not be repeated once more; there is no reason why this would not be repeated.

In this interview, which was published in the recent Arabic language publication, AL-'ALAM, published in London, our president responded to the question of the correspondent of this publication concerning the events in the region, the conspiracies of global oppression, the issues of Palestine and the Middle East, the issue of Afghanistan, terrorism and the Muslim groups in the region.

The complete text of the interview is as follows.

AL-'ALAM: Six years have passed since your Islamic revolution. At what stage in the ultimate goals of the revolution, its principles and priorities, which were announced in the beginning of the revolution, are the leaders of the revolution and the authorities, and today what struggle are you facing that you must leave behind?

President: In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful. We are moving. Of course, the revolution did not make us wait too long. In achieving all the goals of the revolution, it did not make us wait for total stability and the achievement of the final stage of the revolution. We have achieved great success in many areas today, including public services. In the course of these six years, in certain cases, we might have offered fewer services, but the volume has increased, sometimes

by 10 times, over the services which were offered in the course of the previous regime, particularly to the disadvantaged villages and areas. Also, in the area of political independence--one of the main slogans of our revolution, and also in regards to moving towards national self-sufficiency, which is one of the greatest slogans of our revolution, the lack of which is one of the greatest maladies and deadliest of diseases for this nation--we have achieved significant success. However, at the same time, we see ourselves on the move and see the revolution on the way to ultimate stability. Before achieving that stability, undoubtedly, we cannot have a complete evaluation of the goals that have been created in this movement and cannot live up to the slogans of the revolution.

We predict that we will soon be able to achieve the fundamental changes that have to be made in all areas and which the revolution has also promised. I think that today, considering the period of time since the revolution, we are not behind in these goals. Today, in regards to the struggles, we have nothing new. Those hostile to the revolution are the same people that we expected to be hostile, who appeared and still appear in various global and domestic forms of hostility, in various guises and with different slogans. We continue our struggle against such hostilities and, by the grace of God, we have never been on the defensive, and the revolution continues to be aggressive.

AL-'ALAM: Do you believe that the West, after having failed to destroy and defeat your revolution, started the foreign war against you across the borders of Iraq under the pretext of your threats against the Persian Gulf countries and particularly Iraq? How do you see the future of the war in its fifth year, with the threat of the interference of the superpowers and their efforts to impose their solutions on the region, which is one aspect of your ideological government?

President: The war began with the intention of the regime which governs Iraq overthrowing the revolution, at the provocation of the great global opponents. Their plan was to trap the Islamic Republic, a government of revolution, and to disarm the revolution by imposing pressure.

After about one year, the situation changed. In other words, the aggressive government was trapped and disarmed and the revolution, by gaining victory over the enemy on the battle fields and taking the initiative of action in the war, became more stable and its weapons became more effective. Of course, today, after the change in the war in the manner which was mentioned, for some time now, the war has been in a stalemate. We feel that another movement is necessary in the direction that we took in the past in order to reach the final stages of this

path. I believe that, by the grace of God, this new movement and action will not be too difficult.

AL-'ALAM: You are accused of having rejected all the peaceful solutions in regards to the war, whereas the regime of Iraq claims that it encourages all the efforts of the international commissions for mediation and a peaceful solution. What is your response to this claim? And what is your opinion in regards to the rumors concerning the change of the existing balance in Iraq towards a peaceful solution? At such a time, will Iran be prepared to form a military treaty with the Arabs against Israel and sacrifice in terms of a strategic choice?

President: We are the oppressed who have twisted the arm of the oppressor and forced him to temporarily stop his aggression. It is precisely like a person who finds a thief in his home, catches him, twists his arm and throws him out of his house. Of course, this situation would require the thief to consider the matter finished, saying that now that he is out of the house, the problem is resolved. But the oppressed are not satisfied with this solution and say that he must, first of all, pay compensation for the damages and, secondly, he must be punished.

This is our present situation with regard to Iraq. Iraq does not want peace. Iraq wants to be freed of the trap in which it is caught at the moment, and this does not mean that the experience of the Iraqi invasion will not be repeated once again; there is no reason why it would not be repeated. You might say that when it attacked, it considered itself to be stronger than we were. With the flood of weapons going to Iraq and no such similar situation for us, how do we know that in two years, Iraq will not once again feel that it is much stronger than Iran and prepare for a more expansive attack? As oppressed people able to gain victory over the oppressor through self-sacrifice, we hope this will not continue, this aggression will not be repeated and punishment will be imposed for the aggression that has taken place. Therefore, no one can accuse us of seeking war. No, we seek peace; peace is more beneficial for us. However, what we would gain by releasing the oppressor in this situation is not peace, but the acceptance of aggression, both in the past and in the future.

In regards to whether we are prepared, in the event of a change in the existing balance in the policy of the region, and especially Iraq, to confront Israel, I must say that we have always been prepared for serious confrontation with Iraq and we still are. If those who ask whether or not we will be pressured to sign military treaties with them are prepared for serious action against Israel, we will not hesitate for a moment to cooperate with them and, undoubtedly, we will bring more forces to the field than they will and will also show more readiness.

AL-'ALAM: Your Excellency, Mr Khamene'i, can we say that what you mean by their readiness to fight Israel is that the war may end?

President: My interpretation of the balance that you mentioned is what will automatically end the war, that is, for the present regime of Iraq not to exist, because the balance in the region is meaningless without this issue.

The change in the balance would be that those who are in power would no longer be there. Once they are no longer there, there will no longer be a war. We do not want to fight the people or the country. In fact, we do not want to fight the Iraqi army either. We are at war with the Iraqi regime that has imposed this invasion, and when it no longer exists, there will be no war.

AL-'ALAM: A few months ago, you made your first trip abroad, during which you visited the Arab countries which are known to be your friends. In this connection, the question on the minds of the Arab people is, first of all, will Iran be able to leave behind the polarized Arab policies in practice and, without restricting its relations to these countries, normalize its relations with all the Arabs?

Secondly, will Iran succeed in combining the official (diplomatic) positions and the people's positions (in regards to the Arab people) or will the interests of the government win over the commitments of the revolution, its beliefs and principles?

President: In response to the first question, I must say that we have never held a hostile position with regard to the Arab countries. We have been prepared to have close relations and sound cooperation with all Arab countries in the Middle East and North Africa, with the exception of one or two Arab regimes, specifically the regimes of Maghreb, Morocco and Jordan, who have traditionally held positions against the revolution, and also countries that somehow have been caught up in the Camp David trap. Not even the war with Iraq could force us into a critical position against some of the regimes in the region which have supported Iraq.

Hence, in the most difficult periods of the war, we have always maintained our composure and have reacted to the Arab governments in the region with friendship.

Of course, this does not mean that the response has been mutual. Since we feel that one of the major policies of the United States in the region is to frighten the Arab regimes of us, we are trying to neutralize this conspiratorial, oppressive political

action and to eliminate this idea. We believe that we are able to have friendly relations with all Arab countries.

Fortunately, the passage of time and the efforts that have been made from every direction confirm this idea. Concerning your second question, one of the delicate points of the revolution lies in the two positions that you mentioned. There is no contradiction between our positions towards the government and the people, because the position of the people in regards to the Arab masses and all the Muslims is a part of the nature and the original principle of our revolution. Since our revolution is an Islamic revolution and a revolution of the people, we have common positions with the Muslims and masses in all parts of the world, including the Arab and Islamic countries. This issue never forces us not to have friendly relations with the governments in the region whose positions do not fully conform with those of the revolution. The masses do not have such expectations of us, and the governments do not complain that we have the slogans of Islam and the masses, because we have not hidden the principles and goals of our revolution. The governments which are friendly with us are so with regard to these slogans and goals. In one sentence, I must say that our popular revolutionary policy is to express these goals and ideals and to show an actual example of those goals in the Islamic Republic. This is the strongest and most helpful method to transfer these ideals. The popular policy of the Islamic Republic does not mean interference in the affairs of countries. This is something that is completely prohibited by our Constitution.

AL-'ALAM: Even if the interests of that country are in conflict with the interests of the government of that country?

President: That conflict will not cause us problems.

AL-'ALAM: The issue of Palestine and Jerusalem is an essential topic in your general domestic and foreign policy. Where does the PLO fit in your policy and do you have a specific and clear policy in regards to the groups and the differences of the Palestinians? In your opinion, what is an Islamic and practical replacement for the Arab and international proposals and solutions in regards to Palestinian rule?

President: With the situation which has been created recently, it would seem somewhat dubious to identify the Palestinian problem with the PLO problem. I speak about the interests of Palestine and not about the PLO. The issue of Palestine is for us the problem of a country and a nation. All those who defend this nation and its rights truthfully and sincerely in the true sense of the word are endorsed by us and have a place in our major policy, no matter what they are called. We have shown this claim in practice. When we considered the PLO as synonymous with

Palestine and we did not have the doubts that we have today, we provided any sort of help to the organization. However, today, we believe that the Palestinian nation and the Palestinian issue require a serious, truthful and unified movement. To create this movement, we will not hesitate to do anything in our power.

AL-'ALAM: Do you have an alternative to the differences and conflicts that exist among the Palestinians and what is that alternative?

President: First of all, I must say that it is not for us to offer an alternative. When we see a correct movement, we will support it. In regards to the Palestinian issue, we believe that most efforts and self-sacrifice must come from those who feel the pressure of the Zionist blows and live within the occupied lands.

AL-'ALAM: You know that when Gamal Abdel Nasser said that he had no plan for the liberation of Palestine, he faced an extensive attack from the Arab world. Today, too, in spite of your constant calls to destroy the cancerous cist of Israel, the Palestinian nation and the Arab world feel that you do not have a clear, practical plan to liberate Palestine, in which the Palestinian nation and the Arab people would practically participate. Now, what is your interpretation in regards to this issue?

President: We are, in fact, different from Gamal Abdel Nasser, because he shared a long border with Palestine and ruled over 40 million people with a great deal of resources next to occupied Palestine. In order to reach the closest border of Palestine, we must cross the two countries of Iraq and Jordan, neither of which intends to engage in conflicts with Israel and would not allow anyone else to do so. Therefore, we cannot be compared to Abdel Nasser.

We believe that the essential mistake that was committed during the time of Abdel Nasser in confronting Israel was a lack of true reliance on a people's government and a lack of actual a realistic mobilization of the people; instead, there was reliance on powers that at the most urgent and sensitive moments would forsake Abdel Nasser, as they did. We witnessed this situation once again in the 1973 war. At the most sensitive stage, those on whom Egypt relied abandoned Egypt. If we had been Abdel Nasser, we would have chosen another way. We would have relied on the people's forces, and by mobilizing the great forces of the people in a long war against Israel, we would have prevented Israel's victories and would have gained victories ourselves. Nevertheless, we have a clear plan against Israel. Why is it said that we do not have a plan? Our plan is for the Islamic countries, primarily the Arab countries and before everyone else, the progressive countries in the region, to create a real union

against the Zionist goals, and for the Islamic countries also to contribute volunteer forces, equipment and financial resources for a military attack on Israel. Also, the tens of thousands of Palestinians who are ready to fight, fight--undoubtedly such persons exist--must be organized and the true rights of the Palestinian nation, that is, the government of Palestine, will be created. Our real plan, on the basis of which we have acted in these few years and which we have also discussed with the leaders of the friendly and allied countries in our recent visits, is based on the need for a hopeful struggle against Israel.

I feel that, with few exceptions, the Arab countries consider victory over Israel to be a vain hope. In other words, such a hope does not exist for them. This is also heard from the leaders of the PLO. Yesterday, I read a telex statement quoted from one of the leaders of the PLO, who had said that crossing the Israeli borders would be a totally impossible and fantastic task. The great illness of those who have been attacked by Israel and against whom Israel has formed battle lines is precisely this hopelessness and despair. This is a heartfelt impotence. But we possess internal hope and joy, and we believe that if the same is created in other countries as well, the problem of Israel will be resolved. Hence, how can it be said that we have no plan against Israel? We have a plan. Our plan is to fight Israel. We say that Israel must be fought; force must be answered with force, and we consider this war a successful one.

Past experiences do not prove that war against Israel will not be successful, because each one of those experiences was imperfect. Today, we realize those imperfections and know the way to rectify them. If a movement is carried out without those deficiencies, which can be, undoubtedly the government of Palestine will come to power and the Palestinian problem will be resolved.

AL-'ALAM: Do the Palestinians have a place in this plan and if so, what is that place?

President: Certainly, they are central; but, as we said, they must be organized into military groups. We believe that the Palestinian groups must engage in military action more than political action. The main mistake of the PLO was to abandon military action and busy itself with political action. Political action is like a marsh which swallows you up to your neck and leaves you there. They should have continued their military action, because the time was not right for political action. Once they establish their government, then they can engage in political action as well. They made this mistake too soon.

AL-'ALAM: You are surrounded on the one hand by the Communist East, by its occupation of Afghanistan, and on the other hand,

the West threatens you by referring to the oil wells of the Persian Gulf under the pretext of protecting the region and its security. What is your plan against the threat of the Soviets and the Americans, should these two superpowers agree to invade Iran and partition it? Will you not sign a defense treaty with the Persian Gulf countries to eliminate the threat of the two superpowers, and what will be your reaction to the issue of war?

President: We have a much stronger, more serious and more prepared plan than a treaty with the Persian Gulf countries, which involves our being revolutionaries. When we are revolutionaries, the superpowers will not gain victory over us, even if they join in views and have unity of action, as has occurred regarding some issues. Today, both the Soviets and the Americans help Iraq, but at the same time, Iraq is regularly receiving blows from us.

AL-'ALAM: Hojjat ol-Eslam Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, in addition to being president and head of the Supreme Council for Defense, you are also one of the combative clerics and religious scholars as well as a Friday imam. What is your position in regards to the present crisis in contemporary Arab thought in the wake of the spread of the phenomenon of religious and ideological awakening in both friendly and hostile countries? Furthermore, how do you view well-known Islamic movements, such as the Muslim Brotherhood, the (Hezb ol-Tahrir), and the new Islamic movements, which are known to support Imam Khomeyni, and what programs do you have in connection with the future of these movements?

President: Religious and Islamic awakening in the Muslim countries has been a certain and decisive fate, which will have inevitable results, and which no one will prevent. Of course, our revolution expedited this trend and we will undoubtedly strengthen what is called religious awakening. As a cleric as well as an official of the Islamic Republic, I have a duty to present to the people of the world, and not only to the Muslim nations, a correct interpretation of Islam. We have, of course, done so and will continue to do so. But, concerning our position in regards to these traditional and new Islamic movements, I must say that there is one standard and yardstick. We endorse any movement which is Islamic in the true sense of the word and which has not fallen into the deceptive trap of the oppressive powers.

Unfortunately, some of the traditional movements in the Arab world have fallen into the complicated, deceptive traps of the United States and the West. Even though these movements and organizations have very sincere and compassionate elements, they also have elements who benefit from relations with the great powers, who, before having in mind Islamic and revolutionary policies, take oppressive policies into consideration.

AL-'ALAM: The superpowers, specifically the West, accuse you of encouraging terrorism in the world and the region and of representing the leftist extremist faction in the international Islamic movement. This issue is raised for the purpose of an overall mobilization against you as international leftist allies. What is your opinion in this regard?

President: Firstly, in regards to terrorism, we believe that the superpowers and the West are the greatest terrorists in the world. We consider the regimes of the United States and the Soviet Union to be terrorist regimes which have attacked hundreds of thousands of human beings of various ages in various areas of the world without the slightest sense of wrongdoing or sin, depriving them of freedom and life as well, much evidence of which exists in the world. Therefore, those who accuse us of being terrorists are the most involved in terrorism in the world. However, we do not deny that we are the extremist faction of the international Islamic movement. Yes, that is the case. In fact, the Islamic movement, when it is confronted by the mountain of cruelties of global domination and the pressures, threats, power-seeking and power displays, has no choice but to be extremist.

We believe that only an extremist movement will be able to confront the dark and heavy domination created by the large global powers and attain success. Therefore, we not only do not deny our extremism against global domination, but admit it and are proud of it.

10,000
CSO: 4640/405

IRAN

RAFSANJANI SUGGESTS INCREASED INVOLVEMENT BY IRP

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] On Thursday evening, a group of sisters belonging to the Islamic Republic Party's ward in the Province of Tehran and a group of members and supporters of the Islamic Republic Party from the Iraqi branch met with Hujjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis.

At this meeting, after several verses from the Koran were read and a report was given, Hujjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani in a detailed talk described the importance of the party's role in the process of political, cultural and social activities in the society. In a segment of his talk, pointing to the initial goals in establishing the Islamic Republic Party and this organization's dynamics in propagation of the Islamic culture, he remarked, "The Islamic Republic Party is, above all else, principally a politico-cultural institution. Among the most rudimentary responsibilities for the individuals organized within the party in connection with the wards and the current party affairs is to strive to be informed about the cultural issues within their own society and in the world, as well as the goals for the dogma created for that party and to propagate it in the society. If there should arise in the society a need for assuming a particular political and cultural stand, the regimented and trained individuals within the party must simply assume the necessary stance and open the way for the others."

He also said, "It is possible that under some circumstances the necessity for the existence of the party is not sensed. The need for the existence of a party is felt at its peak when the adversary forces are active and involved in devilish deeds. However, if in a country where the doctrine rules the situation is calm, no one pays any mind to spending time in the party wards, and perhaps he would not even appreciate why the party exists. When the adversary forces engage in devilish deeds and create problems, a political institution--other than the government--must face them and defend their rights. The government cannot always and must not involve itself in every problem because governing has a broader scope and is responsible for every and all individuals. Although the government is affiliated with a party, its services and its positions must be broader than the party's."

Continuing his remarks, Hujjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized the necessity for taking of appropriate political and cultural stands by the

party vis-a-vis the forces opposing the revolution. Moreover, pointing to the existing conditions for the training of individuals within the party, he stated, "I recommend that the members of the Islamic Republic Party take advantage of these tranquil conditions, to train individuals, to broaden the organization, to eliminate problems and shortcomings, and to strive toward self-improvement. Now that everyone senses the need for propaganda and in the entire country the need for affirmative action is evident to all, the organization can relate at a more profound and more deep-rooted level. The organization must not be indifferent toward the world events. The events in Lebanon and the Philippines, the drought in Ethiopia and the kidnapping by the Israelis with the cooperation of Sudan must be debated and analyzed in the party discussions."

Then referring to the intellectual growth of the Muslim people of Iran in the past 6 years and emphasizing the necessity for the effort by the party members toward enhancing to a greater height this growth through providing political, religious and cultural awareness, the speaker of the Majlis stated, "If some problems are in the society dealt with at a superficial manner, the party must analyze the same problem at a more profound and fundamental manner; the organization is dutybound to provide for its membership intellectual and political nourishment."

Commenting on this issue that Israel thus far would defeat and refuse to retreat wherever it went--the war with Egypt being an exception where Israel retreated to some extent albeit that at the negotiation table it defeated Egypt--Hojjat ol-Eslam Rafsanjani said, "It was only the revolutionary Muslims of Lebanon who drove out and humiliated Israel without making any concessions to them. They did not even agree to talk and negotiate with Israel, nor did they allow others to talk; they prevented other parties from involvement."

This issue and other such issues must be given attention and consideration by the party. On the other hand, the party must be present at the labor and rural communities and regions and provide them with political, moral and cultural instructions. In every constructive endeavor, the party must be the vanguard and serve the revolution free from inappropriate ambitions and desires; and if the revolution needed blood, the party, here too, must not turn away from generous sacrifice.

12811

CSO: 4640/346

IRAN

RAFSANJANI URGES STRENGTHENING FOUNDATION FOR OPPRESSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jan 85 p 26

[Text] The officials and the supervisors for the Foundation for the Oppressed from the country's provincial seats accompanied by a group of experts from the Planning and Budget Organization met late Monday afternoon with Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The speaker of the Islamic Majlis made certain remarks at this meeting. He stated, "Naturally, one of the initiatives of the Islamic Revolution was to reclaim from the extortionists of the regime the plundered wealth of the people and to centralize it in one organization. Although all the wealth is not centralized within the foundation and some has been assigned to other foundations and ministries, the parts having the greatest significance for people is centralized within the Foundation for the Oppressed."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then stated, "At the present, there are about 2,500 cases at the Foundation for the Oppressed--some of which have been appropriated and others are pending or, so to speak, sequestered. A great deal of the assets have been retrieved and put at the disposal of the Martyr Foundation, the Ministry of Commerce and other institutions. In the very first year, we reclaimed from the extortionists about 70-80 percent of the country's industries. Some of these industries and factories were retrieved from those affiliated with the regime by the conclusive decision of the Revolutionary Council, and some through the courts." He remarked, "The first step which was reclaiming parts of the people's rights was accomplished during the very first year of the revolution. However, the second step which had to be taken was to protect these assets during the time of the revolution. As far as we are informed, the supervisors, the administrators, the workers and all of those involved in the work of the foundation have strived to protect the assets of the people. A great deal of the assets was located and utilized, and of course there must be coordinated effort in order for people to derive the greatest advantage from these assets. In my opinion, the officials of the foundation should take advantage of the trend thus far established and begun at this seminar, lest the people say that these people took away the assets from those who were the enemy of the people but could not themselves manage it. If such is the case, there would be two harms: first, material harm, and another, harm to our prestige. That is, it would be a blow to the prestige of the revolution if the people were to say that when the Satanic Elements were

in charge of the factories, etc., they were producing profits; however, since the time they (the factories, etc.) were appropriated, they no longer produce profits."

Pointing out that "creation of huge monopolistic industrial units in the manner of America and European countries is not our intention," Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani then said, "The industrial and economic world of today necessitate that huge administrative units with strong leadership exist. For instance, organizations such as Krupp have the enormous industrial capability which enables them to implement huge projects in the world. We do not plan to administer our affairs with industrial units which are subordinate to the rule of the capital and follow the line of economic domination. On the other hand, we do not want everything to be done by the government--that is, to have government supremacy. Thus, the duty of the Foundation for the Oppressed becomes clear."

The speaker of the Islamic Majlis declared, "The foundation must fill the void through careful planning and the recognition of the exigencies. You can undertake great economic moves and lay the foundation for huge projects. There are many endeavors that the government should not get into; on the other hand, great sums of capital should not be entrusted to the private sector giving them a leverage against the government. Such affairs are the responsibility of the foundation which must through an awareness of the problems determine which parts of the country have the greatest shortage.

"Now, the Foundation for the Oppressed, acting as the great economic institution, is under the leadership of the revolution and in concert with it. Therefore if it should want to have these assets in the service of the people, it could accomplish great tasks. When it started its work, the foundation was heavily in debt. The banks, following the former calculations, were demanding many debts from the foundation. However, today the banks and the Foundation for the Oppressed are the same. Nonetheless, the banks should not treat the foundation as they treat the private sector. The foundation has great assets on deposit with the banks. The bank stocks appropriated from the foundation and turned over to the banks in accordance with the decision of the Revolutionary Council must be accounted for in such a manner so as to be considered as payment against the foundation's debts; because these (assets) all belong to the oppressed, and no difficulties must be allowed that would weaken the Foundation for the Oppressed. It is the duty of the government, the banks, and other institutions to strengthen the foundation. Of course, the foundation must also be cognizant of the problems and I think the foundation will be able to achieve this with the move that it has begun."

Pointing to the fact that the foundation could create emergency markets needed by the people during the appropriate seasons in order to help solve the problems in distribution and the existing inflation, the speaker of the Islamic Majlis then said, "You continue your works earnestly and be aware that the reputation of the people, the revolution and you yourself depends on your credible performance. You have many enemies. We saw clearly that anyone who administered the foundation became in a variety of ways the

target of the enemy's onslaught. They tried to weaken him and destroy his composure verbally and in writing and by creating complications and sabotage in order to prevent him from continuing the work. You strive and God willing you shall be successful, and the Majlis will eliminate your legal needs as much as it can.

12811

CSO: 4640/346

IRAN

SALEK DISCUSSES WORK OF REVOLUTIONARY COMMITTEES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 21 Jan 85 p 2

[Interview with Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek; date not specified]

[Text] Mashhad--KEYHAN reporter: Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek, the acting director for the country's Islamic Revolutionary Committees, who had traveled to Mashhad in order to participate in the seminar for the committee leaders answered the reporters' questions in an interview with the press.

In this interview, he commented on the formation of the Joint Gendarmery and Committee Posts, the control of the country's frontier belt, and the fight against unlawful acts and then added, "So far 200 kilometers of the 400 kilometer-frontier-belt has come under the Control of the Posts, and other parts will be under control on 11 February." He also said that "during the past 2 1/2 years more than 1,880 kilos of narcotics have been confiscated by the forces at the frontier posts."

Concerning the purpose for holding such seminars, Hojjat ol-Eslam stated, "Our purpose in holding such seminars is firstly to consider topics of interest, to renew covenants of friendship among the leaders (of the committees), and to provide direct contact for discussion and review of problems and for finding appropriate solutions. The second reason is to seek an understanding of the committees as much as possible and to acquaint the society with them (the committees) through certain discussions. The third purpose was to visit the Khorasan Committee for the Islamic Revolution, to meet the officials in charge, and to become more acquainted with them."

"Additionally, it was necessary that we review the past and the present character of the committee--a task that could be viewed in the context of four stages (in time): The first stage characterized by the spontaneous enthusiasm and inner vivacity of the committees occurred during the beginning of the revolution--an enthusiasm which was given shape by the mosques and which began its work within the framework of local committees. During this period it had positive influences in preserving the revolution. The second stage was the period of the rule by the committees through regionalization, and the third stage was the period of purification and purging of the committees and their initial organizing. The fourth stage which we are to embark upon is to approve in the Islamic Majlis the constitution for the

revolutionary committees of the Islamic Revolution in an attempt to define the committees within the law and in accordance with the charter proposed to the Islamic Majlis."

"Another point was to set forth a statement of our policy for promoting unity among the committees with respect to their assigned duties. We defined the direction of our work in the context of this seminar. Our goal is to see growth in the capabilities of the Committee Guards and the committee's conformity to legal guidelines in their assignments. Also a report of the operations of the past 1 or 2 months was among the other goals. Counsel and guidance to our brothers in the committees is another of the subjects discussed (providing) contact among these brothers and the clergy because of the religious structure governing the committees and upgrading [sic] the brothers in the Committee Guards."

Then, regarding the duties of the committees and their presence in the war fronts, Salek said, "Our Islamic Revolution is at war with world oppression, and it makes no difference to it (the committee) whether it is engaged in the war fronts of right against wrong or inside the cities establishing order and security. Of course our principal work--in which we are the enforcement arm of the Revolutionary Courts--is in the areas of gathering security intelligence and fighting against the counterrevolution toward maintaining security and combating bands of narcotics smugglers; and our secondary mission is participating in the battle fronts of right against wrong if there is the need. However, in order for our brothers in the committees not to be left out of the battle fronts of right against wrong, Musa-Ibn Ja'far (peace be onto him) Army was formed--whose members have been sent to the fronts after finishing the necessary training period in the Qods Garrison in Tehran."

In connection with the selection of the committee leaders, the acting director of the Committees of the Islamic Revolution said, "Apropos of strengthening and the selection of the committee leaders, several considerations must be borne in mind. One is the appropriate selection of the leaders. That is, a leader must be selected who possesses sufficient qualities of leadership and management; he must be socially and professionally popular. He must be competent, pious and familiar with the problems of the committees and security and possibly military problems as well. Another point is that wherever we want to appoint a leader, I, myself, go there and support them because they are the army of the overall command in the entire country. In addition, our organizational chart proposed to the Islamic Majlis will itself be the most important factor strengthening our leaders. Providing the leaders with the means as much as possible and specifying the limits of their authority and duty are among other factors strengthening the leaders. Also supporting them through the assignment of personnel to their Central Command will be important. Because if the Central Command itself is strong and powerful, it will have a positive influence upon the entire staff."

He added, "At the present time, we have committees in 20 provinces country-wide, four provinces and some cities excepted. However, with the approval of

our proposed charter, we shall establish committees at the level of all the provinces and the cities as needed."

Concerning the control of the borders, Hojjat ol-Eslam Salek stated, "The control of the country's borders is one of the most sensitive problems of the government of the Islamic Republic, and the officials agree upon this that the country's borders must be controlled; hence, one way to control the borders is to create roads in the frontier belt. In connection with which task, there has been the establishment of posts with one, two or in some cases three ramparts--each with its own capabilities and controls and with the active presence of the Guards--in particular at the joint posts with the Gendarmerie. In the Khorasan Province, we have about 78 joint posts--where the Gendarmerie and committee brothers are engaged in protecting and guarding the borders of the Islamic Republic. The greater this control becomes, the amount of narcotics and the corruptive problems will naturally decrease within the country; so much so that when we attended a Conference of the International Police Organizations, they were saying that since Iran has stepped up its campaign against drug trafficking and has closed down its borders, transporting of narcotics by land has become difficult for smugglers. This, in itself, is a positive point for the Islamic Republic. Therefore, we are investing in our borders; and since the start until now, more than 50 percent of the 400 kilometers of border fronts assigned to us has been prepared and God willing some additional parts will be ready for use by 11 February, the anniversary of the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Nevertheless, the principal point is that we consider such activities as essential and regard the joint posts as a success; because, firstly, it is a means of interaction between one sub-culture with another, and moreover, the presence of the brothers of the committee and the Gendarmerie brothers side by side gives these brothers strength and causes them to grow. Consequently the joint posts have had an important role in detecting narcotics--to the extent that within a period of 2 1/2 years, from 1361 [21 March 1982-20 March 1983] up to the first 6 months of 1363 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985] 100,889 kilograms of narcotics have been uncovered--a fact which reflects the success of the committees in this area."

At the end of his remarks, the Hojjat ol-Eslam addressing the lack of Islamic attire and the question of corruption in society said, "The lack of adherence to Islamic attire is one aspect of corruption. That is, what we see here on the whole is that wherever the Great Satan has failed to confront and destroy the revolution through military attacks and economic sanctions, it has tried by expanding networks of moral decay, prostitution and unlawful acts to possibly inflict blows to the stature of the Islamic Revolution. However, with the help of the exalted God, the Committee for the Commanding of the Lawful and the Prohibition of the Unlawful comprised of 16 members from the various executive departments was formed in Tehran and the committee (the Islamic Revolutionary Committee) is one-sixteenth of those relevant departments. In connection with this, we must say that we have been successful in our approach to combating moral decay and unlawful acts. Nonetheless, this is not the entirety of the picture because, as the axiom goes, there is no sound to one hand clapping. As we are one-sixteenth of

the entities charged with combating unlawful acts, the radio and television, the other mass media, the Ministry of Islamic Guidance with all of its capabilities, and the Organization for Islamic Propaganda along with other institutions which are members of this campaign must coordinate their efforts. But our belief with respect to the campaign against unlawful acts and immorality is that it be conducted through extensive and varied contexts--such as plays, films, artistic activities, lectures, meetings, classes for debate and exchange of information and ideas in different areas. The reason for this is that when our sisters confront a woman who is without the Islamic attire and engage her in discussion, first she is angry that she has been criticized. However, after some discussion and explanation of facts, they begin to cry and request that we arrange classes for them and that we tell the officials in charge that they (the women) are declaring their readiness to accept the Islamic culture. This indicates that the standard of the education/instruction we provide in society is low."

12811

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IRAN

MUSAVI: PROVINCIAL GOVERNORS ACCOUNTABLE TO PEOPLE

Tehran BURS in Persian 16 Dec 84 pp 1, 2

[Text] In a meeting of governors-general from across the country, the prime minister condemned news imperialism's spiteful propaganda during the hijacked Kuwaiti Airbus incident, and said: In this case, the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was able to resist the enemies' vindictive propagandistic assault and to neutralize their plots solely by relying on the people. Eng Musavi, the prime minister, spoke on the second day of the nation-wide governor-generals seminar. Pointing to the deep tie between the government and the people and the role of this tie in solving the revolution's various difficulties, including the imposed war, he stated: Our basic problem, meaning the war, and the various problems facing our executive agencies in the various provinces are soluble only when our true connection and tie with the people is preserved. One example of this tie is the concern of officials for the people. Our governor-generals must be humble and responsive in their dealings with the people because the principle and root of our revolution lies in the people and all our efforts take place to serve the people. The prime minister added: Any government that calls itself the Islamic republic must truly be the people's servant and our people must observe the signs of such an approach in our policies and the behavior of officials towards them. Pointing to the government's overall plans to relieve the existing deprivation in some parts of the country, he added: Our people are bright and aware and know that the government does not have the resources to immediately relieve their deprivations. However, it is sufficient that they feel that the governor-general is concerned with their deprivations and is supporting the deprived. In this way our relations with the oppressed, who are the revolution's resource, will be preserved. Concerning the necessity of cooperation between provincial executive officials and the clergy, Eng Musavi stated: The presence of the clergy is one of the pillars of our system's progress, and wherever the clergy have been strongly present and the executive system has coordinated with the clergy, we have been more successful in our administration. Today, when the management possesses a relatively strong stability, the necessity of this coordination and the active presence of the clergy is felt more than ever. As he continued his speech, the prime minister stressed the necessity of confronting corruption and stated: Our system must show its strictest face to corruption, particularly bureaucratic corruption. We made a revolution on the basis of Islamic and Koranic values and we were victorious. If we cannot preserve the revolution's method, which was formed on the basis of purity, piety, and

rejecting western values, we will face great difficulties in the future. Addressing the governor-generals, he stressed: As a policy we should show no mercy in confronting bureaucratic corruption. When the general interests of society are at stake, we must definitely overcome the affectionate tendencies within us. In no way do you have permission to overlook a bureaucratic corruption because this issue is one of the people's and the revolution's rights. If you deal with it decisively, we will have peace of mind in this regard in the future. Your effort must be based on using existing capacities and the people's support to take actions to eliminate corruption. You must not interpret this matter as a trivial one. Pointing to the necessity of utilizing native forces in various regions of the country, Eng Musavi stated: Today, when our system is more stable than ever, our main tendency must be to move forward towards using the native forces in each region in order to assure the people in each province and to develop the talents of each region as much as possible. If we invest in this area, the problems of each region will certainly be better solved by the managers of those regions in the future. Pointing to the disagreements left over from the former regime between the cities and the country's various regions and the unhealthy competition to attract welfare resources that existed during the former regime, the prime minister said: At the same time that we make use of the sentiment of need for the people's progress, we must remove areas of unhealthy conflict and replace them with an Islamic face in the provinces, cities and villages so that the residents of each region feel happy when neighboring regions obtain resources. In conclusion Eng Musavi reminded the audience about coordination between the governor-generals and the government's overall policies, unity of approach among executive officials nationwide, the importance of quick prevention and maintaining permanent relations between the governor-generals and the city-regions and the regions within their official jurisdiction, confronting political infighting and political cliques, the use of all the forces existing throughout the provinces, and attention to cultural issues and the various ethnic groups. He then answered questions from the governors-general concerning executive issues.

9597

CSO: 4640/305

IRAN

INTERMINABLE POWER STRUGGLE PERSISTS INTO 7TH YEAR

Paris LE MONDE in French 13 Feb 85 p 5.

[Article by Jean Gueyras]

[Text] Some 6 years after the Islamic Revolution of 11 February 1979, the regime continues to be prey to internecine conflicts between the government's various clerical factions. This persistent bickering frequently mires Tehran politics in sterile and dangerous immobilism. An even more serious development is the exacerbation of rivalries within the Islamic regime. Ayatollah Khomeyni's deteriorating health triggered a furtive struggle in 1984 over his succession. The "revolution's guide" is now intervening less frequently in these domestic quarrels but has relinquished none of the levers of power. He remains the unchallenged final arbiter of all policy and personality disputes. Despite his advanced age (86) and frail health, he is still the regime's kingpin and the supreme authority whose decisions are never openly disputed.

Physically weakened, Khomeyni can no longer supervise day-to-day implementation of his policy and has delegated part of his duties to Ayatollah Hosein Ali Montazeri who is increasingly viewed as his all-but-nominated successor. Only 2 years ago, Montazeri was being challenged by his peers within the ruling religious hierarchy. With every passing month since then, however, he has shown himself to be a skillful and effective tactician. He certainly does not have Khomeyni's charisma but is endowed with more than his share of peasant shrewdness. The form and substance of his public statements have so evolved recently as to become those of a responsible leader anxious to enhance the regime's distinctive image.

For instance, on several occasions in late 1984 he used his influence on behalf of Mehdi Bazargan and his liberal friends who were being persecuted by diehard elements in the Revolutionary Guards. Bazargan, who was the Islamic Republic's first prime minister, has been eliminated from parliament under pressure from ultraconservatives. He has not relented, however, and is tirelessly continuing, to the best of his ability, his struggle to liberalize the Tehran regime. His highly critical book, "The Revolution in Two Movements" was published last September. In it, he states that all of Iran's present misfortunes arise from the clergy's deplorable tendency to monopolize power. He goes even so far as to contend that Ayatollah Khomeyni is entirely responsible for this situation because he has tailored to his own measurements

a regime which is "neither democratic, nor fascist, nor Marxist," but constitutes an incongruous system that is held together solely by his presence. Bazargan thus implies that the Islamic Revolution will have difficulty surviving Khomeyni's death.

There have been two printings of Bazargan's book--more than 60,000 copies--which is sold in all Tehran bookstores. The book has drawn the wrath of the "radicals." Assodallah Ladjevardi, the former revolutionary prosecutor of Tehran, and students of Khomeyni's doctrine and principles immediately endeavored to discredit Bazargan by publishing "compromising" documents found in the U.S. Embassy compound. Ladjevardi's supporters in the Revolutionary Guards set fire to the home of Bazargan's son and also the home of Ebrahim Yazdi, the former foreign minister and one of Bazargan's faithful lieutenants. The headquarters of Bazargan's party was attacked during a mass meeting and several of the former prime minister's closest associates were brutally manhandled. Bazargan appealed to Ayatollah Montazeri who did not hesitate to intervene personally and demand an end to attacks upon this group of "liberals" which, in his view, has the same legitimacy as other Islamic groups. The recent attack upon the Bazargan party headquarters was a setback for Montazeri.

A Victory for the 'Moderates'

Ayatollah Montazeri, one of whose functions is to supervise and unify Iran's judiciary, had had more success in his showdown with Ladjevardi who as warden of the Evin prison had transformed that facility into a veritable state within the state by systematically blocking efforts of the Higher Council of Justice--which comprises five high-level fundamentalist religious dignataries--to standardize judicial procedure in conformity with the Constitution. In his capacity as revolutionary prosecutor of Tehran, Ladjevardi had opposed any intervention by the judiciary in activities of the Evin prison which he always considered his exclusive preserve where he multiplied summary executions. This man, whom many Iranians called the "butcher of Tehran," was finally neutralized in two stages. In October 1984, he was removed as warden of Evin prison, and again just recently, in early February, as revolutionary prosecutor of Tehran.

For nearly 5 years, Ladjevardi had been the very soul and principal inspiration of repression. His departure is, therefore, a major victory for the regime's moderates. Among other things, the former Evin prison warden had opposed any action to release political prisoners. He believed that once freed they would immediately resume their "subversive activities". In contrast, Ayatollah Montazeri believes that politically and militarily defeated groups opposed to the revolution no longer constitute a danger to the government. Hence he contends that Iran must take the risk of gradually releasing certain categories of prisoners whose retention in prison gives the regime a bad name. In this spirit, Khomeyni's heir apparent had prepared a list of 3,000 political prisoners, most of them women and children, whose release he recommended. He was unable to obtain Khomeyni's approval of their release, however. In this particular case, Khomeyni seems to have come round to Ladjevardi's way of thinking.

Thus Ayatollah Montazeri's victory appears to be fragile and partial. Even though Ladjevardi's influence has been weakened by his two dismissals, he remains a member of the judicial hierarchy and also has powerful abettors within the diehard faction of the Revolutionary Guards. It is true, however, that henceforth--theoretically at least, by virtue of a decision made public 2 months ago--no death sentence can be carried out without approval of the Higher Council of Justice. Furthermore, many revolutionary tribunals known for their summary procedures have been dissolved throughout the country. Yet the fight between the repressive legal machinery dating back to the earliest days of the revolution and the new arduously established institutions of Islamic justice has only just begun. Many revolutionary prosecutors and tribunals are beyond the control of the central judicial authority and independently pursue their repressive activities.

The various factions within the government also have differing views on the strategy to be followed for ending the Gulf War, but these differences are less obvious. Not one of the leaders dares publicly dissent from Ayatollah Khomeyni's views, nor openly protest against continuation of the war. The latter is becoming increasingly unpopular as people perceive no way of ending it by a military victory which is more and more improbable. Ayatollah Khomeyni did, in fact, discourage any possible recrimination on this subject when, at a December 1984 ceremony commemorating the Prophet's birth, he once again reaffirmed, by paraphrasing a verse from the Koran, that the war will go on "until all centers of conspiracy throughout the world disappear."

War of Attrition

Yet official statements and speeches on continuation of the war have noticeably become definitely more moderate in tone. Officials no longer speak of the "final offensive" which is supposed to bring the Iraqis to their knees. Thus officials appear to be planning on an interminable war of attrition that would end only with the political collapse of the Iraqi regime.

A war of attrition is a two-edged sword, however, in that it is as much of a drain on the Iranian economy as on the Iraqi economy. The cost of the war weighs heavily on the standard of living of a country which has from three to four million unemployed. Indeed it was to exacerbate Iran's disastrous economic situation that Iraq once again escalated its military operations within Persian Gulf waters in an effort to deprive the Tehran regime of its sole source of foreign currencies.

The harsh realities of Iran's financial and economic crisis, aggravated by the blockade of Kharg Island, have apparently bolstered the nevertheless silent peace movement. It is obvious that this movement is at the root of the tentative overtures to the West initiated last July by Hojatoleslam Rafsanjani whose strength in parliament and in the country was increased by the parliamentary elections. He now apparently also has Ayatollah Montazeri's discreet support.

But opponents of a negotiated peace and a rapprochement with the West still remain all-powerful. They are steeled in their determination by Ayatollah Khomeyni's intransigent attitude toward continuation of the war.

IRAN

BILL ON GOVERNMENT MEMBERSHIP IN INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 p 22

[Text] KEYHAN political service. Yesterday's open session of the Majlis, chaired by Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, was held and resumed after a recess.

In yesterday's session, following the recitation of verses from the Koran, there were three pre-agenda speakers and then the speaker of the Majlis spoke in connection with the message of the imam and the magnificent presence of the people on the scene on 11 February.

A summary of the pre-agenda statements of the representatives and the speaker of the Majlis was published yesterday. The report continues:

Reminders of the Representatives

Following the pre-agenda speeches, including that of the speaker of the Majlis, the reminders of the representatives to the executives were read as follows by the speaker of the Majlis.

Mr Musavi, representative of Ahvaz: To the Ministries of Commerce and Agriculture concerning the purchase of the rough rice of the villages of the area, to the Ministry of the Interior concerning changing the villages of the area into districts and the completion of the water outreach plan of the village of Sheyban, and to the Ministry of Roads concerning repairing Ahvaz, Tasfiyyeh-ye Shekar, 'Anafcheh and Saffak Roads.

Mr Khalkhali, representative of Qom: To the Ministry of Energy concerning the prevention of power shortages in Qom.

Mr Qoreyshi, representative of Khomeyn: To the Ministry of Education concerning providing teachers for the high schools of the area, to the Ministry of Roads concerning the completion of the Khomeyn-Arak road, and to the Ministry of Health concerning the delivery of ambulances to the Health Department.

Mr Beheshti, representative of Fasa: To the authorities concerning the elimination of deficiencies in the hospital, the construction of a gasoline station, the independence of the 15 Khordad [5 June] foundation, and the establishment of the revolution committee, the office for licensing vehicles and the commerce office in Fasa.

Mr Seyyed Khavari, representative of Langerud: To the war support headquarters concerning strengthening the provisions unit of the Kurdistan area.

Mr Hoseyninezhad, representative of Ardekan: To the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic concerning the television coverage of Network 2 in the Ardekan area and accurate reporting of the news.

Mr Ahani, representative of Astara: To the Ministry of Health concerning providing funds for the health unit of the health network in Astara to complete the health projects and to the authorities of the Ministry of Agriculture concerning providing bees' wax, sugar, and bees for the bee keepers of the area.

Mr Taheri, representative of Khorramabad: To the Ministry of Energy concerning the installation of lights in the allies and streets of the city of Qom.

Agenda

Following the pre-agenda speeches and the reading of the reminders of representatives, the Majlis went into session.

First, the bill on government membership in international organizations and assemblies was discussed and studied in the first round of discussions.

Seyyed Hasan Shahcheraghi, the spokesman for the foreign policy committee, explained in regards to this bill: This bill, which was sent to the foreign policy committee as the main committee, was studied in numerous sessions of this committee and, finally, on 15 January 1985, it was ratified with some changes.

Single article. Membership of the government of Iran in international organizations and assemblies as indicated in the attached list is approved and the government is granted permission to take steps to pay the suspended membership fees.

Note 1. Memberships ratified by the Majlis remain valid.

Note 2. The government is granted permission, when necessary, to take steps to pay the suspended membership fees for organizations in which membership has not been approved.

Note 3. Changes in membership fee amounts for organizations and assemblies mentioned in this law will be anticipated each year in the annual general budget of the country, and upon ratification by the Majlis, they will be allocated by the Cabinet.

Then, Esma'il Feda'i, Morad 'Ali Ahmadi, 'Abd Khoda'i and Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi spoke as opponents and Sadeq Khalkhali, Mehdi Shamlu, Gholamreza Feda'i and Akbar Hamidzadeh as supporters of the bill. Then the spokesman of the committee offered the necessary explanations, followed by statements by the representative of the government and Dr Velayati, the foreign minister. Then, the general points of the bill on government membership in international organizations and assemblies was put to a vote and ratified with a majority vote.

Explanations of the Spokesman of the Committee and the Government Representative

Following the opposing and supporting statements, the spokesman for the foreign policy committee explained: Several committees worked on this bill for several months. It was in our hands since the first term of the Majlis, and a large number of representatives worked on it and studied it. More than one committee dealt with it. However, the point that remained vague to me, which I did not understand, is whether the opponents mean to say that we must not participate in any international organization. If such is the case, it would be a tragedy for the Islamic Republic, and I am sure that no one would say such a thing. How can you say you do not want to be part of the United Nations? Can you say that we must not participate in some of the

assemblies in which it is necessary for us to participate? It is impossible for your airline to be active in the world unless you participate in (IATA). You want to travel to several countries of the world from here. The airlines of the Islamic Republic of Iran do not have flights to every place in the world. You go from here to Paris, and if from Paris you want to go to Africa, or you want to go to Africa by way of Rome, you must take another airline. Naturally, we must have these relationships and we must be present there to be able to make use of their services.

Or, in regards to the world postal organization, if your letters, envelopes and postal packages are to reach everywhere in the world, to be a means for the export of your revolution, you cannot refuse to be a member of the world postal organization. And the same is true with regard to UNESCO.

A brief look shows that the total amount that we must pay for membership fees is no more than \$10 million, and our currency expenditures are about \$20 billion annually. If we spend \$10 million of the \$20 billion for this purpose, I do not think it will cause any major problems and our presence in these assemblies is worth this amount.

Then, the representative of the government offered explanations in connection with this bill.

Bill for Export and Import Regulations

At 10:40, the open session of the Majlis adjourned temporarily and resumed under the chairmanship of Mohammad Yazdi, deputy speaker of the Majlis, and the bill on import and export regulations was discussed.

Abolqasem Vafi, the spokesman of the committee on economic affairs, offered explanations about this bill and said:

This bill was discussed in numerous sessions in the presence of the authorities and executive organizations and was ratified in a session on 7 February 1985. Now a report on it is presented to the Majlis.

The bill states that the export and import of goods are divided into four groups as follows.

1. Permissible: Goods, the import and export of which is permitted in accordance with the related regulations.
2. Conditionally permissible: Goods, the import and export of which takes place with a government license in accordance with legal regulations.

3. Impermissible: Goods, the import and export of which is prohibited upon the ratification of the government.

4. Prohibited: Goods, the import and export of which is prohibited in accordance with the law and the sacred Islamic laws.

Also, engagement in the commercial export and import of goods requires trade permits which are issued in accordance with regulations by the Ministry of Commerce. Issuance of trade permits is conditional upon membership in the Iranian Chamber of Commerce and Mines and Industries, unless in exceptional cases approved and instructed by the minister of commerce.

Issuance of permits to applicants for the import of all goods is the responsibility of the Ministry of Commerce.

Then, 'Ali Panahandeh spoke in opposition and Pursalari in support of this bill. The continuation of discussions on the bill was postponed to the next session.

Report by Minister of Mines and Metals

In the conclusion of yesterday's session, Hoseyn Nili, the minister of mines and metals, presented a report concerning the activities of this ministry and its programs and said:

In connection with the mines, a report has been prepared, a copy of which we will send to the honorable representatives who are interested. A summary of this report on the mines, which shows the situation in the past and present in terms of extraction and exploration regarding the mines in the country, has been prepared in two parts. The first part concerns the situation with regard to exploration and extraction involving mines in the past and present and the second part concerns the policies and programs of the Ministry of Mines and Metals in connection with activating this important sector of the economy. Before the Islamic revolution, oil was the most important and essential source of providing for the current expenditures and developmental projects and the center of the exports of the country. Non-petroleum materials such as minerals, carpets, leather, hides and other items made up a very small part of the exports. In exchange for the sale of these valuable items, consumer, mediate and investment goods were imported. The authentic goods were mainly used for dependent and assembly industries. Many of the raw materials, such as those for chemical industries, agricultural industries and the like, were available in the country.

A look at the import and export statistics from 21 March 1973-20 March 1983 shows that in that decade, about 58 million tons of minerals, chemicals and metal and non-metal goods at a value of

about 1,700 billion rials entered the country. In comparison, about 8 million tons of the same raw materials at a value of 36 billion rials were exported.

The import figure compared to the two export and import figures shows the level of dependence of the past programs, particularly in the area of agriculture and industry.

Exploratory Activities in the Mines

The minister of mines and metals continued: The mining activities of the Ministry of Mines and Metals are summarized in a few areas, one of which consists of exploratory activities. Until the period 21 March 1963-20 March 1964, the exploration of 510 mines had been accomplished. Of course, it has been stated here that most of them were mines yielding construction materials. Lead, copper, coal, sulphur, chromite and zinc were among the exploratory mines of this period.

In the period 21 March 1963-20 March 1979, the active mines, those in which work was being done and which were added to the previous mines, numbered about 300, which included iron ore, lead, zinc, chromite, copper and other mines. However, our present condition in the mines of the country is as follows. The map that is before you indicates the active mines in the country. Every mm on this map indicates one square km. Due to the limited space, the number of lights here is not the same as the number of the active mines in the country. However, they show an overall picture of the issue.

Our mines are generally categorized in four parts.

1. Construction material mines, which are mentioned in the law as mines of category one, include gypsum, lime, water and mineral salt, and construction stones. In regards to our active mines under the present conditions and the level of excavation, in 267 gypsum mines during the period 21 March 1983-20 March 1984, in which 3,230 persons are employed, and the production of which is 8,600,000 tons, thank God, this trend has been increasing. At present, in regards to construction material, we have no problems in the country.

2. Mines in the second category are divided into two parts: Metal mines of category two and non-metal mines of category two, which consist of iron ore, copper ore, lead and zinc, as well as the raw materials for aluminum production and other materials, which will not be mentioned here.

The mines that we have at the present in the country are shown on this map. Of course, the number of active mines in our report is 821 mines, of which at times 7 or 8 mines together make up 1

mine. If we take those into consideration, at present, the number of mines in the country can be mentioned as 930 mines. We have 400 inactive mines in the country which are generally metal mines, such as lead and zinc. Because of the problem in the export and sale of this material and the high excavation costs and given the world prices, the excavation of these mines has been considered infeasible.

Policies for Expanding Exports

The minister of mines and metals continued his report and added: With the studies that have been made and the explorations that we have completed, in regards to some minerals, our situation is very favorable, in which case, the policies for the expansion of industry and the policies for the expansion of exports can be implemented. Among these are iron ore, copper, chromite, lead, zinc, raw materials for aluminum production, decorative stones and coal. The country has the potential, if correct planning is made, to be among the exporters of coal.

In the conclusion of his report, the minister of mines and metals said: In connection with the imam's decree, the potential of the mines of the provinces has recently been identified and the announcement has been made to the public through the press as to what extent non-government sectors may invest in mining activities.

The open session of the Majlis ended at 12:30 pm and the next session was postponed to today, Thursday, at 8 am.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that in this session, several bills were received as follows.

1. Bill concerning the conference of authority on the government in regards to the ratification of the charter of the auditing organization.
2. Bill on the use of the opinions of traffic officers in traffic accidents.
3. Bill for joining the government of the Islamic Republic to the convention protocol of the important international (talabs).
4. Bill to amend Article 53 of the law establishing national councils.
5. Bill on the presidential elections of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
6. Question by Seyyed Reza Zavvareh'i to the minister of justice concerning the reason for not observing Article 32 of the Constitution and Article 2 of the Islamic penal law.

IRAN

ISSUES REGARDING STUDENTS ABROAD DISCUSSED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Feb 85 p 22

[Interview with Dr Sepehrirad, deputy minister for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education by KEYHAN; date and place not specified]

[Text] KEYHAN cultural service. The problems of graduates upon their return to the country, changes in the regulations for sending students currency, new facilitative measures for students abroad to spend their holidays in Iran, providing conveniences, examinations to send graduate students abroad, and the results of the visit of a delegation to several European countries were issues discussed in a detailed KEYHAN interview with Dr Sepehrirad, deputy minister for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education.

First, concerning the statistics on Iranian students in various countries and the number of cases eligible to receive student currency, he said: There is no clear figure available on the total number of Iranian students studying abroad, because some have gone unofficially and some are studying in fields not needed or in unaccredited universities. As a result, they are not in contact with us and we do not know their numbers. However, concerning that group of students with currency files, there are precise statistics available, and once every six months, report cards are issued for them. For certain reasons and in order to better facilitate the parents and students, from next year, the report cards will be issued annually.

Dr Sepehrirad added: According to last year's statistics, about 63,000 currency files existed, of which number 23,000 received currency and 29,400 cases include graduates and others.

Also, according to last year's statistics, more than 500 cases involved those who were unable to receive currency because they were not studying or did not meet the necessary requirements.

Explaining the statistics on the distribution of Iranian students in various countries, he said: Of the total 33,000 cases eligible to receive currency, 6,000 are women and the remainder are men. Also, the 63,000 existing cases concern 12,500 female and 50,600 male students [as published]. These students are engaged in studying in various countries. Most of them are studying [in the following countries] in order: The United States, 27,249; England, 8,383; Federal Republic of Germany, 5,554; India, 4,967; Italy, 3,097; Turkey, 2,198; Austria, 864; Pakistan, 391; Spain, 343; Belgium, 189; Egypt, 39; and Japan, 34. The rest are scattered in other countries.

The deputy minister for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, responding to a question concerning what guarantees exist for these students to return to the country, said: Essentially, the best guarantee for the return of these students to the country is to establish relations with the students and create the proper atmosphere in the country for them to serve.

But a number of students do not return after graduation for two reasons, one concerns the attractions abroad and the other concerns the events in the country. In regards to the attractions abroad, we might not be able to take many steps, but in regards to the negative factors within the country, we can find solutions. We must create attractions in our country for the student to feel inclined to return home.

Of course, alongside this issue, cash and property guarantees can also be placed, which are now being carried out. For instance, in regards to medical students, parents must give property guarantees. And those who have left since the cultural revolution have been and are placing guarantees.

Creating Attractions in the Country for Graduates

It was asked: What are the negative factors which must be eliminated in the country and what are the attractions that must be created?

Dr Sepehrirad answered: At present, if a foreign graduate returns to the country and does not know where he must go for employment or for military service, and so on, the treatment of this individual and the reaction of this graduate to the primary problems will repel him. This group returns to the country to work in connection with their education and scientific training, but their work is not considered as important as it should be. Consequently, they become convinced that they are not needed. The administrative treatment indicates that experts are not needed. These obstacles must be removed, and through the easiest

methods, they must be absorbed into the work system of the country.

In regards to the attractions, it must be said that nothing can be done about some of the general problems, and it might not be the right thing to do, because these individuals must accept that they are returning to a country which is at war and has certain shortages. The material comforts which exist in Western countries are not available here. Here, more needy people live. The best attraction and encouragement for Iranian students who study abroad is for them to be able to return to the country and serve the people who provided for their education, even under the conditions of revolution and war.

In regards to the statistics on foreign graduates and the evaluation of their degrees, he said: Last year, degree evaluations took place in 9 groups for 5 educational programs for 3,452 degrees, including engineering, 1,695 persons; social sciences, 593 persons; natural sciences and mathematics, 454 persons; art, 208 persons; medicine, 193 persons; educational sciences, 109 persons; agriculture, 106 persons; humanities, 75 persons, and law, 19 persons.

Then, in response to the question concerning the relationship between the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and the Iranian students abroad and what programs there are to establish cultural relations with the students, Dr Sepehrirad said: Unfortunately, the relationship of this Ministry to the students, both in the past and at present, has been solely regarded to currency. While the currency issue can be a dimension in this relationship, cultural and emotional relations are very important. Although creating relations in this connection does not only concern this Ministry, but other institutions and organizations, including the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Guidance, Islamic societies and the media that have publications abroad also have a share in this issue. This is a relatively difficult task, but this Ministry is planning and studying some programs in this area. The goal is to strengthen these cultural relations by becoming familiar with the problems and solving them.

Among these steps is the trips of students to Iran during the holidays. With the changes which have taken place, a larger number can come back to the country. At the present, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other concerned organizations are studying the proposal by this Ministry. Also, we believe that through the mass media, such as the foreign language programs of the Voice of the Islamic Republic and KEYHAN-E HAVA'I, we can establish relations with the students. Of course, the role of the Islamic student societies abroad is significant in this connection. They can, with consideration for the social

atmosphere of the location where they study, make efforts to attract students and guide them on a course that is more appropriate to the culture of this country.

Then, in response to the question of whether the amount of student currency has changed and in regards to the changes in regulations for sending currency, the deputy minister for student affairs of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education said: The amount of currency for students was ratified by the government and no proposal has been offered to the government to increase it, because, according to our information from most countries, students find this amount appropriate. For next year also, studies will be made on the basis of need. However, in regards to the regulations for sending it, considering the experiences and necessary studies by the experts and authorities, certain changes were made in the old directive, which will be implemented in a new ratification.

New Facilities to Send Student Currency

There are three important points in this new directive which must be mentioned. First, in the past, if the student did not study, his currency was reduced by 50 percent and if he made an effort in the following semesters and reached a certain level, he would again receive full currency. It was decided that if he received half of the living expenses, considering the fixed expenses, he would not be able to reform himself. Therefore, rather than having this sudden change to 50 percent, reductions will be gradual and in several phases, so that at every stage it will not be so much as to deprive the student from improving himself through new efforts.

The second point concerned the reduction of currency in the event of a decline in the quality of education. In other words, if a student did not achieve the necessary grade point average, his currency would be cut in half and again the same problem would exist. In this case also, according to the new directive, reductions will be gradual.

The third positive point of the new directive concerns married students in whose case previously the reduction of currency would include the spouse and children, but in this directive, as long as the student is eligible for receiving currency, the spouse and children receive full amounts and the decline in the educational quality only affects the student's own currency.

Then, in connection with the problem of evaluating the educational degrees of the graduates of the Indian subcontinent and the possibility of revisions of the regulations for this evaluation, he said: According to the law, the evaluation of degrees is the responsibility of the supreme evaluation council,

whose members are directly appointed by the minister of culture and higher education. The ratifications of this council with the signature of the minister can only be changed through new ratifications. Hence, what exists in regards to the evaluation of the degrees of the graduates of the universities of the Indian subcontinent and is implemented cannot be changed except through the decisions of this council and with the approval of the minister. At present, this council is making studies so that along with examining such graduates, which was decided by the previous supreme evaluation council, it can find other ways to solve the problem.

We asked Dr Sepehrirad: Dormitories are one of the problems of the students in the universities of the country. If every applicant could attend a university in his own city, the problem would decrease to a great extent. Have you thought of a solution in this regard? He answered: Essentially, in the nationwide examination, we are searching for ways to ensure that students, as much as possible, are accepted in their own cities and the problem of dormitories and moving is reduced to a minimum and the needs of the universities in regards to dormitories is reduced. In this connection, the presidents of the universities in the country approved a plan in their last gathering which was announced and we hope it can resolve many problems.

The Negative Effect on the Quality of Education of the Shortage of Student Resources

Also, in regards to providing student welfare domestically, he said: Providing comfort means, such as dormitories, restaurants, housing loans, and aid for educational expenses, are directly connected with the resources put at the disposal of the universities and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education. As Dr Fazel mentioned in his report to the Majlis some time ago, the shortage of resources in this area has also added to the welfare problems of the students. Of course, this is not a problem unique to the student stratum, but a national problem. The Ministry of Culture and Higher Education must also be active within the limitations of the existing resources.

In order to provide dormitories, efforts are always made to make use of all existing buildings. With the help of the Foundation for the Oppressed and the prime minister's office, some locations are prepared and put at the disposal of universities. We hope that with attention to this issue, by providing proper shelter for students and their minimum needs, we will have a direct effect on the quality of higher education and, consequently, in the return on our investment, and the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education will be able to receive more aid in the future.

Also, in connection with the domestic and foreign educational grants of the universities, Dr Sepehrirad said: The level of grants given to universities to complete the university faculties for this year and next year is insufficient to provide for the future faculties of the universities. Hence, based on the request of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education and with the agreement of the Majlis, it was decided that 1,000 persons annually would be selected for this purpose. A number of them will be chosen from among the outstanding university students who meet the scholarly and ideological requirements desirable for faculty members and the rest from among the existing university faculties to continue their education at the master's level and above. These individuals will be given grants in the domestic universities and only in certain fields for which special courses do not exist in Iran will they be sent abroad.

Examination for Education Abroad

Then, concerning the examination for students to study abroad, he said: The examination to send students with bachelor's degrees abroad is going through its final implementary stages and soon the requirements will be announced.

Also, the results of the study of the remaining files of the applicants with bachelor degrees who requested earlier to be sent abroad will be announced by the end of this year.

Dr Sepehrirad recently traveled abroad along with a delegation. He was asked: What was the aim of this trip, and in meeting with students abroad, what were the new points which were raised, what was their main problem, and what do they expect of the authorities and the government of the Islamic Republic?

He answered: In our visit to England, Germany, Romania and Austria, various problems of the students, especially those who receive grants, were examined. In numerous sessions with students, interesting issues were raised, some of which were explained there and some of which required further investigation.

The major problem of students was delays in receiving educational currency, or not receiving it because they have not met the necessary requirements. In this case, the necessary explanations were provided and regarding students who meet the requirements for necessary currency, new facilitating measures have been determined and it has been decided that starting next year, they will receive currency ahead of time.

Also, in conversations with the members of the Islamic societies, the importance of acquiring the necessary specialization and skills for our country along with other Islamic activities were mentioned to them. They were told that the needs of the Islamic

Republic of Iran for committed and specialized forces requires the students to increase their continuous efforts to acquire sciences and knowledge from the universities where they study while preserving their faith and reliance on God. Fortunately, the students paid attention to this point and have made strides.

10,000

CSO: 4640/409

IRAN

CENTERS FOR EXPANSION, RECONSTRUCTION SERVICES ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Jan 85 p 21

[Text] The centers for expansion of production and reconstruction services are attempting to increase the number of cooperatives in the country in various areas of industry, agriculture, reconstruction, and service; from the current figure of 4,400 to 10,000 in the coming year, as long as they are able to obtain loans from government organizations and provincial banks.

Engineer Seyyed Ahmad Madani, the director general of the Coordination Council of the country's centers for expansion of production and reconstruction services, spoke with reporters at the Revolutionary Council on the occasion of the sixth anniversary of the approval of the law for employing the unemployed. While stating this fact, he stressed the role of cooperatives as a source of employment, and as an Islamic economic method, by referring to paragraph 2, of articles 43 and 44, of the Constitution for the Formation of Production and Reconstruction Cooperatives. He mentioned the goal of using the cooperatives to give resources to individuals who lack capital but possess the expertise, ability, and inclination for the work of production and reconstruction. He described the expansion of cooperatives as an Islamic way of preventing exploitation and use of hirelings by recalling that the members of cooperatives provide their own supervision, labor, and capital.

He announced that in the future it will be public policy to increase the number of agricultural and production cooperatives, while limiting service cooperatives. He also pointed out that in order to provide better service and eliminate shortages, the centers for expansion of production and reconstruction services of the Ministry of the Interior are engaged in the effort to establish large union assemblies and cooperatives in the fields of animal husbandry and poultry, in order to increase the expansion and development of production cooperatives. Madani referred to the 20 percent increase in the credit of the centers for expansion and reconstruction services in the coming year; and to the fact that next year these centers will also be able to retain up to 40 percent, about 1 billion rials, in loans provided in credit line of subsection 3 of the national budget for the use of production and reconstruction cooperatives. Therefore, the total for all the loans approved for these centers will reach 55.352 billion rials next year.

The purpose for the expansion of development cooperatives is the growth of support units in the fields of agriculture, animal husbandry, and industry to fill existing gaps in these sectors by establishing new cooperatives. In the long run the cooperatives are to be given a distinct and fixed role in the national economy by increasing their number. In order to reach this goal he requested the cooperation of more provincial banks in providing necessary loans to the production and reconstruction services cooperatives.

12847

CSO: 4640/311

IRAN

EXAMINATION OF NEW YEAR'S BUDGET UNDERWAY IN MAJLIS

Tehran BURS in Persian 22 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] The different committees of the Majlis held sessions. The committee on higher education and culture studied and approved four other articles for sending students abroad. In the session of the education and training committee, first, the bill for government membership in international organizations was studied and Article 27 of the bill was not approved. Also the amendment to the 1364 [21 March 1985-20 March 1986] budget was discussed and examined by this committee and the continuation of the discussion of the two bills was left for the next session. In the housing and urban development and road and transportation committee, the amendment related to the ministry of housing and urban development in the budget bill of 1985-1986 was studied and was approved with some adjustments.

In the session of the committee of the revolution organizations the 1985 budget bill of the country was examined and studied and amendments 34, 25, 31, 41, 45, 54, 56, and 57 were approved in original form and amendment 70 was approved after some adjustments. In the committee of councils and internal affairs which was held in the presence of government representatives, bills related to penalties for those who smuggled unauthorized individuals abroad, some of the articles of passport laws, and the law for entrance and residency of foreign subjects in Iran were studied and approved after some corrections.

9815
CSO: 4640/387

IRAN

DUTIES OF AGRICULTURE, RECONSTRUCTION CRUSADE MINISTRIES DEFINED

Tehran BURS in Persian 22 Jan 85 p 5

[Text] The duties of the agriculture and reconstruction crusade ministries were defined according to decrees. According to IRNA the separation of duties have been composed in seven articles as follows:

Article 1. The reconstruction crusade is bound to execute the total policies governing programs in the area of the growth of agricultural production and animal husbandry to be included in the decree after the approval of the ministry of agriculture. In the event that the two ministries do not reach mutual agreement, the concordance between the two will be based on Article 134 of the constitution and measures taken by the prime minister.

Article 2. Research activities in the field of agriculture will be the responsibility of the ministry of agriculture as before. It is the duty of the ministry of agriculture to share research results with the reconstruction crusade ministry.

Article 3. Practical training of villagers in relation to the duties of the reconstruction crusade ministry is included in the law of establishment and this regulation is the duty of the mentioned ministry.

Article 4. The reconstruction crusade ministry is responsible for water and soil engineering based on agreement in each case with the ministries of agriculture and energy and is responsible for the following duties:

A. To provide and execute agricultural irrigation plans within the limits of its duties in Article 5 of the law forming the reconstruction crusade ministry.

B. To prepare and execute wasteland reclamation projects for increasing agricultural products.

C. To prepare and execute projects such as levelling, drainage, and surface water regulation.

Article 5. To prepare and execute the reclamation, protection, and economic operations of the tribal region pastures, stabilize water tables, convert

land to pasture and fodder cultivation, sow seeds, fertilize pastures and plant shrubs.

Article 6:

A. To provide all necessary services and action for the development of animal husbandry and chicken farms for improving domestic cattle and chickens in the rural and tribal areas and coordinating the country's animal husbandry organization.

B. To encourage and help expand bee keeping in the rural and tribal areas.

C. To prepare and execute projects for the protection of traditional fishing in the southern shores of the country and promote employment of villagers within the framework of policies of the ministry of agriculture.

Article 7. All necessary action in respect to the promotion of fodder and wheat cultivation through dry farming throughout the country is the duty of the reconstruction crusade ministry and the ministry of agriculture will cooperate in this regard as usual.

9815

CSO: 4640/367

IRAN

EXPORT OF GAS, PETROLEUM VIA MEDITERRANEAN EXAMINED

Tehran BURS in Persian 22 Jan 85 pp 1, 8

[Text] On the second day of the official visit of the prime minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi to Turkey, the first session of the official negotiations of the prime ministers of the two countries began in Ankara yesterday. Mr Mir Hoseyn Musavi the prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an interview with the IRNA reporter after the conclusion of the first Iranian-Turkish negotiation session in Ankara said: "In this meeting among discussions about subjects of mutual interest to both nations and studies of possible expansion of economic relations the issue of war was also discussed. In analyzing the Islamic Republic of Iran's views, we proclaimed that we will continue the legitimate defense of our Islamic revolution until the roots of aggression are wiped out."

Mr Musavi added: "In this meeting we also talked about the possibilities of exporting gas and petroleum via the Mediterranean Sea and it was agreed that our negotiations to be continued in this regard. It is probable that serious studies and economic exploration of this matter will be agreed to by Iran and Turkey."

The prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran in response to one of the reporters in regard to this visit said: "One advantage of these visits is to be in the presence of the rich Islamic culture in the families of the Islamic nation, especially Turkey and the mutual aspects of the vast culture between our nation and the Muslim nation of Turkey."

In these meetings which were held in the prime minister's office, Mr Behzad Nabovi, the minister of heavy industries, Aqazadeh, the minister of state for executive affairs, Ja'fari, the minister of commerce, Besharati, the deputy secretary of economic and international affairs of the ministry of foreign affairs, Kazem-Purardebili, the deputy undersecretary of the ministry of foreign affairs, Honar-Dust the deputy secretary of international affairs of the ministry of petroleum, Ganji-Dust, the prime minister's advisor, and the Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador in Ankara were accompanied by the prime minister of Iran. The Turkish mission consisted of Vahit Halefoglul, the minister of foreign affairs, Mustafa Titiz, the minister of state, and several other Turkish officials.

After the second round of his official negotiations with Mr Turgut Ozal, Mr Musavi met this afternoon with Mr Kenan Evren the president of Turkey. last night he gave a dinner in Turgut Ozal's honor at the Islamic Republic of Iran's embassy in Turkey. Mr Musavi, the head of the mission, was invited by Mr Turgut Ozal the Turkish prime minister and arrived in Turkey Sunday afternoon when he was officially welcomed. The day before yesterday, at seven o'clock local time and eight-thirty Tehran, time he met with Mr Turgut Ozal at the prime minister's office in Turkey.

9815

CSO: 4640/367

IRAN

OIL EXPLORATION PROJECT IN CASPIAN SEA DETAILED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Feb 85 p 3

/Text/ The details of projects under consideration for oil-producing regions, the methods of oil exploration and production in the country, the process of gas injection for the purpose of controlling the unmanageable and wasteful flaming, the manner of the exploration for very heavy oil in the Mund Mountains and the mode of the oil exploration project in the Caspian Sea were the main topics discussed yesterday in a press and radio-TV interview given by Engineer Mohammad Hassan Tavala'i, the director of the oil-producing regions, exploration and production of the Ministry of Petroleum of the Islamic Republic.

According to the economic correspondent of KEYHAN, Engineer Tavala'i, first expressed his congratulations regarding the "10-days of Dawn" and concerning the responsibility of the management of the oil-producing regions stated: "This management division is one of ten managerial departments which are responsible for the supply of exportable oil, the supply of more than 90 percent of the natural gas for domestic consumption, the provision of 100 percent of the crude oil for all oil refineries of the country and the supply of a portion of the liquid gas for domestic use.

"Oil-producing regions cover approximately 200,000 square kilometers. Until 1974 these oilfields were managed by the oil consortium. Thereafter, major western oil companies such as 'The Seven Sisters' undertook the process of exploration and production activities within the framework of an 'oil service company.' After the Islamic revolution and the cutting the hand of the consortium, this company became part of the managerial departments of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and was managed by the hard-working brothers in the oil industry.

"After the victory of the revolution, this management has had an upward movement with favorable results. The greater diameter of our circle of oilfields is 1,300 kilometers, which includes such provinces as Ilam, Lorestan, Khuzestan, Kohkiluyeh va Boyer Ahmad, Fars, Bandar 'Abbas and Bushehr. The number of permanent workers employed by the oil industry in the oil-producing regions of the country is 6,500; the number of permanent administrative and technical personnel

is 5,050 and the number of miscellaneous and temporary workers related to the oil industry amounts to 9,325 employees. At the present time there are nine drilling and repair rigs in operation throughout the oil-producing regions. From the beginning of the current year until the end of Azar /21 March - 21 December 19847, 15 new wells have been prepared for production and 21 wells have been repaired. During the same period 39,034 meters of drilling have been carried out. A comparison of pertinent statistics on drilling in oil-producing regions to the similar period of the previous year 1362 /21 March 1983 - 20 March 19847, shows an increase of 95 percent.

"After the victory of the revolution and the expulsion of the foreigners and the Americans who were engaged in 46 separate companies, the honorable Iranian drilling workers and technicians took over all responsibilities. Iran is the first oil-producing country which enjoys an independent drilling industry. (Other countries carry out their drilling operations through the use of foreign drilling companies.)"

Engineer Tavala'i went on to add: "The number of active wells at the beginning of the current year /21 March 19847 was 317. Other wells consist of 44 gas-producing wells, 137 oil, gas and water observation wells (these types of wells are drilled for the purpose of evaluating and studying the potential of the reserves).

"Injection liquid gas and water wells number 63, capped wells (which are not needed at the present time) number 305, abandoned or obsolete wells which are no longer productive number 530 and oil reserve facilities number 22, which will be increased to 36 units by the end of the 5-year plan.

"There are 38 fully operational factories, which will be increased to 47 by the end of the 5-year plan. Likewise, the number of liquid and natural gas plants will be increased from six to ten units by the end of the 5-year plan. During the same period the present single liquid gas refinery will be increased to two. By the end of the 5-year plan the present two desalination plants will be increased by 10. At the present time we do not have any plants for the stabilization and reinforcement of liquid gas pressure, however, by the end of the 5-year plan, we will have 32 plants. Similarly, another pumping station will be added to the present five pumping stations which are producing oil for export only."

Furthermore, regarding the characteristic operations of the oil-producing regions, he stated: "The approximate length of existing pipelines in the oil-producing regions is 9,000 kilometers. The total amount of oil discovered in these regions from the beginning of the year 1333 /21 March 1954 - 20 March 19557 until the early part of the current year (1363) was 341 billion barrels. Likewise, the total amount of gas discovered was 475 trillion cubic feet (c.f.). The amount

of oil produced without the process of gas injection was 69 billion barrels, production of gas amounted to 324 trillion c.f.; production of oil up to the end of 1362 /21 March 1983 - 20 March 1984/ was 30 billion barrels, and the production of liquid gas for the same period amounted to 25 trillion c.f. Production of oil without the process of gas injection amounted to 39 billion barrels and the producible gas which exists in combination with oil, for the same period amounted to 299 trillion c.f."

The director of the oil-producing regions went on to add: "If the gas injection projects, which have been included and approved in the 5-year plan are carried out, we will have an increase of 17 billion barrels of oil from our existing reserves. With the execution of this project, by the year 1368 /21 March 1989 - 20 March 1990/ 10 billion barrels of the total 17 billion barrels of oil will be produced through this process. Generally, with the use of the gas injection process, the life of any oil reserve can be extended between 25 and 40 years."

Engineer Tavala'i also stated: "The total number of engineering projects which must be carried out during the 5-year plan is 499. The most important or significant of these projects, which are at the present time under preparation, are the project for the supply of gas to the Iran-Japan petrochemical complex and the construction of four plants for the stabilization and reinforcement of gas pressure in Ahwaz. Similarly, two liquid gas-700 and -800 plants are under construction.

"Among other projects, which are under preparation, is the project for the gas compression of the second phase of Pazanan plant No. 1 which will feed the liquid gas-200 plant and which has been 95 percent completed."

Engineer Tavala'i added: "Thank god, the damages incurred to our oil installations by Saddam's troops have all been reconstructed by our brothers, thus not the slightest halt has occurred in the performance of our activities."

Thereafter, regarding the responsibilities and the duties of the exploration and production division of NIOC, Engineer Tavala'i said: "The most important studies and exploration activities for the discovery of oil and gas consist of the process involving geology, geophysics, geochemistry, surveying and finally drilling of the wells. These activities constitute part of the duties of the exploration and production division. Research and exploration operations carried out by this department after the victory of the revolution, e.g., from 1358 /21 March 1979 - 20 March 1980/ until the month of Dey 1362 /22 December 1983 - 20 January 1984/ has been as follows:

- 1- Geological studies for the purpose of evaluating the potential of the oil regions with an equivalent of 1,948 days of field work.
- 2- Geophysical studies for the purpose of exploration with an equivalent of 1,293 days of field work and 5,097 kilometers of land which have been tested for tremor and gravitational attraction.
- 3- The mapping and surveying office, which is one of the stronger units of the

Ministry of Petroleum, in addition to preparing maps necessary for the exploration, also assists other government and military units through the preparation of specific and pertinent mapping information.

4- The drilling, exploration and extraction unit has so far drilled 11 wells. Out of these 11 wells, one has been unproductive. Seven of the remaining ten wells have been drilled over various rock arch formations and the rest are newly drilled.

5- The unit in charge of increasing production also devises new methods to produce more oil from our oil reserves.

Exploration Plan for Heavy Oil

6- As regards the exploration of heavy oil Engineer Tavala'i stated: "After an increase in the price of crude oil in the world, Iran was prompted to consider the exploration of this type of oil. It should be noted that until now extraction of this type of oil has not been economically profitable.

"Consequently, at the beginning of 1362 a group of oil experts, under the supervision of the office of exploration, extraction, and production (which comes under the directorship of the department of exploration and production) were assigned to study the means and methods of heavy oil exploration through the research of pertinent information available in the world regarding various fields of heavy oil technology and present their findings to the department. This group, which was called 'Heavy Oil Research and Follow-up Group', started its work in Ordibehest 1362 /21 April - 21 May 1983/ without much ado. In the month of Shahrivar /23 August - 22 September/ of the current year, the drilling operation of the first exploratory well of heavy oil in the Mund Mountain began. Mund Mountain, which is the formation of conjunctive rock arches (with a length of 90 kilometers and a width of 16 kilometers), is situated in the southeastern part of Bushehr in the Persian Gulf littoral.

"After the drilling of the first well and the substantiation of the existence of very heavy oil, two more wells were also drilled in order to evaluate the potential of the reserves. Thereafter, pertinent research on the technical and economic feasibility of this project will be carried out so that if all the results are positive, a preliminary project on a small scale will begin 'trial production.'"

Engineer Tavala'i said: "It is probable that between 11 and 12 billion barrels of heavy oil exists in this reservoir. This reservoir is considered to be the eighth largest oil repository in Iran."

7- Preservation of crude oil reserves contained in the salt pits.

Exploration of Oil in the Caspian Sea

8- Regarding the exploration of oil in the Caspian Sea he stated: "Work on the exploration and necessary studies on this project other than drilling have been completed. We hope that through the assistance of relevant organs, we will be able to erect the drilling rigs in the Caspian Sea and begin operations."

IRAN

DETAILS OF OIL PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION TO TURKEY ANNOUNCED

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 85 p 2

/Text/ The economic policy of the Islamic Republic with friendly countries, export of oil to Turkey, Greece and Italy, and the volume of trade exchange between Iran and Turkey were announced in a press and radio-TV interview by the minister of heavy industries, Behzad Nabavi.

First, he talked about the trade exchange between the Islamic Republic and Turkey and stated: "In comparison to last year, the volume of trade between Iran and Turkey has increased. During trade relations between these two countries, the volume of trade exchange has not been any thing like this until now. Of course, qualitatively, we have also been able to pay more attention to this matter than last year."

He went on to add: "Perhaps some people might question how we plan to export some needed merchandise to Turkey while our own country needs the distribution of such goods itself. In answer I have to say that such goods are not very sensitive or badly needed in our country, on the other hand, we can obtain foreign exchange through the export of such goods." Regarding the export of oil and gas through Turkey he said: "We can export oil and gas to Europe through Turkey. In preliminary studies we have reached the conclusion that this is a matter which benefits our country."

Furthermore he added: "According to preliminary studies the required investment for the construction of the Iranian gas pipeline to Turkey amounts to \$11 billion. Of this total Iran will pay \$2.5 billion, while Turkey and Greece will each pay \$4 billion respectively." He also noted: "The Iranian natural gas will be exported by a pipeline passing through the port of Iskenderun in Turkey, first to Greece and then to southern Italy. The Iranian gas pipeline will also export natural gas to Syria and Turkey itself."

Engineer Nabavi also stated that the cost of construction for the Iranian-Turkish oil pipeline is estimated to be about \$3 billion, which will be shared equally by both countries. Meanwhile, Iran's share for the installation of these pipelines is payable through the barter of oil. Furthermore, on the basis of the

signed memorandum of understanding between Iran and Turkey, it is supposed that the results of an economic feasibility study on the construction of the two pipelines will be ready within the next six to twelve months. If the outcome of the study shows that the technical and economic costs are viable, construction will start.

Nabavi then pointed to the matter of the credit ceiling of the two countries and said: "The credit ceiling between the two countries has increased from \$300 million to \$400 million." As regards the economic policy of the Islamic Republic with other countries of the world he stated: "We do not have economic relations with those countries which are enemies of the revolution and who openly oppose the Islamic Republic. However, we can have relations with those countries which are not our enemies. Our relations with Turkey are based mainly on the interests of the two nations. Since Turkey is one of our neighboring countries and is also a Muslim nation, thus our relations with this country are the best kind of economic relations."

In conclusion, he pointed out that such relations can bring the two Muslim nations closer together.

IRAN

MINISTERS VISIT YAZD URANIUM MINE SITE

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Jan 85 p 4

[Text] After 3 years of relentless effort by experts and contract workers of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, over 5,000 tons of uranium reserves were discovered in the Saghand area of Yazd.

Sarhadizadeh, the minister of labor and social affairs; Banki, minister of state in charge of the Plan and Budget Organization; Amrallahi, deputy prime minister and president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran; along with several experts from the Plan and Budget and Atomic Energy Organizations, visited the Saghand area of Yazd yesterday morning in order to study the method of discovering uranium mines, and to make necessary decisions.

At the end of this visit, during the discussion in Yazd, Brother Banki announced: "A vast band of rich uranium, iron, lead, and zinc mines has been discovered in a vast area between Saghand (Chadormalav) to Bafq in Yazd. It is hoped that Iran will use the mines in this area to supply a great industry, and to build a firm basis for national independence."

He announced: "America's hopes for obtaining these resources during the previous regime were futile. Extensive operations were undertaken for several years after the revolution to discover and to exploit these mines. Concentrating as much as possible on these mines, and efforts to exploit them, is an important way of achieving economic independence."

Brother Sarhadizadeh, the minister of labor and social affairs, was interviewed after the visit. While describing the difficult working conditions in this region, as well as the extreme sacrifices of the brothers of the Atomic Energy Organization in Saghand, he stressed the need to obtain the manpower required for discovering and exploiting the mines in this region of our Islamic land.

Brother Amrallahi, the president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, who was accompanied by several experts from his agency, referring to the 5,000-ton reserve which has been found in this mine, stated: "After 3 years of trying to discover uranium in this area, a new uranium reserve is found as time goes by."

He expressed the following hope: "During the next 2 years we hope to have definitive information that the Saghand Mine is one of the largest uranium mines in the Middle East to be exploited by the nuclear industry."

The president of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran ended his remarks by stressing that uranium is a strategic metal, and by calling access to it a great help to the nation's economic infrastructure.

12847

CSO: 4640/311

IRAN

MINES, INDUSTRY BANK ANNOUNCES PROGRAMS

Tehran BURS in Persian 19 Dec 84 p 4

[Text] In order to perform an effective role in the country's economic growth and expansion, the government's five-year plan will invest more than 300 billion rials of new capital to create production and industrial units across the country.

The managing director of the Industry and Mines Bank was interviewed by an IRNA correspondent as he was visiting Gilan. He announced the facts above, and said: At the present time there are more than 250 production units across the country actively at work in which the bank has invested capital. Of this number, the major portion are in Gilan Province. He added: Right now there are 69 large production units connected with the bank, and the shares of a large number of them belong to the bank. In this connection he added; Overall there are 780 production units which are linked to the bank by loans and capital investment. God willing, in the near future we will add 65 more plans which were prepared with the bank's participation to this number.

He added: On the basis of the government's policies and in order to develop areas of activity for production units, an annual average of 50 billion rials will be put at the people's disposal. Meanwhile the bank's limiting ceiling and the ratio of granting facilities to that group of applicants has increased about 14 percent annually since 1980.

He then pointed to the plans of the Industrial Expansion Bank within the framework of the government's five-year plan, and added: During this plan's duration, this bank will invest more than 300 billion rials of new capital in accordance with the goals of the Islamic republic. Of this amount more than 150 billion rials will be invested in the area of intermediate goods production, and the remaining 50 billion rials [as written] will be invested in consumer goods production units.

9597

CSO: 4640/306

IRAN

POLYETHYLENE PLANT MEETS NEEDS OF SEVEN PROVINCES

Tehran BURS in Persian 24 Dec 84 p 5

[Text] Through the efforts of workers in the Reconstruction Crusade's factory producing polyethylene tube in Khorasan, which began operation in June of last year, the factory has produced 2,000 tons of tubing so far. The tubing has been put to use in transporting water to the villages and in agricultural affairs. In an interview with an IRNA correspondent, the director of the Khorasas Reconstruction Crusade Polyethylene Tubing Factory announced the facts above and stated that the Reconstruction Crusade Ministry has built four units of this factory in the country in order to supply the needs of the agricultural, and rural water-transport and gas-transport plans. He added: This factory's production supplies 100 percent of a Reconstruction Crusade's needs in the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, Esfahan, Central, Khorasan, Semnan, Gorgan and Gonbad. In addition, we have completed an examination and will soon offer to the private sector surplus not needed by the Reconstruction Crusade in these provinces.

He stressed that the Reconstruction Crusade Ministry's policy was to provide employment opportunities for villagers in the villages and to prevent their migration, and therefore the aforementioned factories were built near villages. He said: Installation of equipment, construction of the compound, street building, etc were carried out by Reconstruction Crusade brothers without any intervention by foreign personnel. Following this production of low, medium and high-pressure tubing began. Since high-pressure tubing is used in gas-transport, a plan is not under implementation to increase the diameter range of the tubing produced from 40 to 125 millimeters to 40 to 600 millimeters, so that in the future we will feel no shortage in the area of rural gas-transport.

He said: The primary capital for the construction, machinery and current funds of this factory is 300,000,000 rials. It has been producing since its inception at the limit of its capacity, which is 2,000,000 meters annually of tubing in various sizes, through the efforts of its committed workers. It needs a total of 230,000 tons of raw materials annually, 100 percent of which unfortunately is imported from abroad and then chiefly produced by the capable hands of Iranian craftsmen. However, it is expected that the needed raw materials will also be supplied domestically when the Bandar Imam Khomeyni Petrochemical Complex starts up.

9597

CSO: 4640/306

IRAN

PURCHASE OF RAILROAD EQUIPMENTS DISCUSSED WITH S KOREA

Tehran BURS in Persian 25 Dec 84 pp 1,4

[Text] Shul Soo Kim, South Korean deputy minister for commerce and industry, and an accompanying delegation, met with Khamushi, deputy minister of roads and transport, and the general director of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Railroad.

According to a report by the public relations section of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Railroad, in the meeting the Korean deputy minister of commerce and industry expressed his desire to expand economic relations between the two countries, and pointing to bilateral cooperation with Iran's railroad said: Iran's railroad's purchase of 20 locomotives last year was a step in the direction of expanding cooperation. He expressed hope that these locomotives would satisfy the railroad, and that in light of the resources of Korean companies, the railroad would in its future plans supply locomotives and freight and passenger cars from Korea. He then added: In addition to the abovementioned production, South Korean also has many resources to supply rails, railway materiels, and metal railway ties. The railroad's general director then announced his satisfaction with the quality of the locomotives that had been purchased and delivered, and then went on to describe the railroad's future activities and its method of supplying railway cars and needed equipment. He said that the freight cars needed by the country's first development plan would be supplied by the Pars Railroad Car Company, a domestic firm, and plans are now being studied that would also supply needed passenger cars from the same factory. It is obvious that if this is not possible we will solicit international bids.

Khamushi added: Railroad experts inspected the South Korean Jat Factory which produces steel and rails and pronounced Korea's resources good. Therefore we have concluded several contracts to supply rails and railway equipment with Korean companies. We hope that with the high quality that your production will have that commercial relations and transactions will grow beyond what they were in the past.

9597
CSO: 4640/305

IRAN

PRODUCTION LINE FOR GALVANIZED TUBES BECOMES OPERATIONAL

Tehran BURS in Persian 16 Dec 84 p 5

[Text] Through the unceasing efforts made by the committed engineers and workers of the Tus Tube and Metal Parts Factories in Mashhad, the galvanized tube production line has gone into operation with a daily production capacity of 70 tons.

Starting up this line will not only supply 50 percent of the province's needs but will also prevent spending 210,000 dollars of foreign currency.

In an interview with IRNA, the managing director of the factories announced the above facts and added: This line was defectively installed by foreign engineers without any attention to acceptable standards prior to the revolution's victory. The line became operational with a 2 ton per hour production on the auspicious occasion of the birthdays of His Eminence Khatisi Mortabat Mohammad Ibn 'Abdullah and His Eminence the Imam Ja'far Sadeq. He said: This line is active for one five-hour shift a day, using 15 engineers and trained workers, while if the officials of the Ministry of Heavy Industries would supply the materials needed by the factory as was done before, more than 70 tons of galvanized tube from three-quarters to three inches in diameter will be produced in a 24-hour period.

Pointing out that the purchase, transport, installation and start-up of this production line, whose nominal capacity is 20,000 tons, so far has cost 120,000,000 rials, he added: All the equipment and parts needed to start up this line were produced in Iran, while we would have lost about 8,000 dollars in foreign currency had we purchased them from abroad.

Pointing out that all the stages of repair, maintenance, and construction and replacement of the parts used by the machinery are carried out inside the factory, he said: The chemical material needed by the line was not even available on the market but was made in the factory's laboratory.

9597

CSO: 4640/305

IRAN

BRIEFS

OVER 15,000 COOPERATIVES ESTABLISHED--The State Central Cooperative Organization has released a report carrying statistics on the founding of urban, non-worker cooperatives, rural, worker and fishing cooperatives according to the type of activity, the number of members, and the level of capital and legal reserves up to 21 December 1984. According to the report, during this period 8,357 urban, non-worker cooperative companies were founded with 3,356,698 members and 68,205,491,000 rials capital. Furthermore, 4,721 worker cooperatives with 674,192 members and 2,006,006,000 rials capital were founded, as well as 50 fishing cooperative companies with 7,000 members and 22,220,000 rials capital. Furthermore, by 22 October 1984 a total of 3,097 rural cooperative companies had been organized, with 3,893,111 members and 23,626,252,000 rials of capital. Solely during the month from 23 October to 21 November of 1984 63 urban, non-worker cooperatives and 5 worker cooperative companies were founded. In the month of 23 September to 22 October of 1984 177 rural cooperative companies were organized. Thus so far 15,776 cooperative companies with 7,931,001 members and 93,759,969,000 rials of capital have been formed. [Text] [Tehran BURS in Persian 16 Dec 1984 p 2] 9597

CSO: 4640/306

PAKISTAN

PLANNED CAMPAIGN OF STRUGGLE TO CHANGE SYSTEM URGED

Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 4 Jan 85 p 3

/Editorial: "Protesters' Hope--Punjab, Not Sind"/

/Text/ In an article a few days back we pointed out that the expectations that MRD /Movement for the Restoration of Democracy/ had from Sind have been thwarted. This is a reality that has been accepted even by the MRD leaders, and now the target of their activities and their hopes is Punjab and not Sind. Attempts are afoot to flex agitational muscle in Lahore in the new year. With this aim in mind, MRD has decided to take advantage of the Birhari issue, so that when riots break out in Punjab, the Karachi people will also have a reason to participate, even though the people of Karachi want to solve this problem not through riots but through negotiations. In this connection, Karachi representatives under the leadership of Mayor Afghani are due to meet President Ziaul Haq. No matter what happens in Karachi, it appears that attempts will certainly be made to create an atmosphere of protest in Punjab at Lahore's Masjid Shuhada and other mosques. It is possible that this new process of protest may get support and help from the fifth-columnists within the administration, but it would be wrong to believe that a situation anything like the 1977 agitation can again be created. Certainly angry elements are present in Punjab and they carry weight, too, but the toady and progovernment group is still very powerful. That is why good sense dictates that any decisive battle should be avoided and even if there has to be protest, its aim should be not to topple the government but to reach understanding with it.

Our complete sympathies have always been with those democratic elements who are the asset of a new and emerging Punjab and who entertain good and creditable wishes for popular and democratic politics as opposed to the toady and progovernment politics. We are also convinced that Punjab is the real hope of healthy, popular and democratic changes. This is because only in Punjab has the new middle class the strength in number and situation for tackling the forces of oppression. As compared to Punjab, in other provinces the grip of tribal and feudal systems is strong and the middle class is weak both in number and in power. Therefore, only in Punjab can there be any hope of change through popular struggle. It is because of this that Mr Benazir rightly said a few days ago that Punjab will be a turning point. This is because she knew that nothing can be accomplished in Sind, the Frontier Province or in Baluchistan. But in fact it would be wrong to think that Punjab is ripe for revolution and

that victory is within reach. Such unrealistic ideas give a false estimate of one's power and lead to a false pride. Instead, the correct course would be that instead of looking for a short-cut through rioting, a course of planned, specific and patient but fruitful struggle should be adopted. In this, the public must be educated at every stage and disciplined at every stage. Otherwise the agitational approach, which has been common in our country, has no other effect except that we have been replacing weak dictators with powerful strongmen. This politics of changing dictators should be stopped. Whether you cooperate with the government or not, it should always be kept in mind that our aim is not change of the individual but change of the system, and systems are not changed overnight. In this, gradualism and stages are unavoidable. It is necessary to understand the demands of every stage and to evolve a suitable strategy. On the other hand, if the government really wants to solve the present political crisis and to set up civil government, then it should make every effort to take the politicians into its confidence and to convince them. Arrests and oppressive measures have never and will never solve political problems and if the government really wants to hold elections, then it should hold elections in such a way that no political partner will have any reason to part company with it. Otherwise, elections that leave most political elements in a state of disarray cannot solve our problems. In this situation, if any voices of protest are heard, instead of their being denounced as agitators, attempts should be made to understand their true nature and to discern the cause of the underlying unrest.

12286

CSO: 4656/78

PAKISTAN

RAJIV GANDHI COULD BRING INDIAN-PAKISTANI RAPPROCHEMENT

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Jan 85 p 5

/Article by Nurul Hasan Hasmi: "A Fresh Breeze From the Direction of Delhi"

/Text/ Delhi is called the threshold of 22 saints and this special feature of Delhi has been a source of pride: not only for the Muslims of Delhi but also for those in other cities in both India and Pakistan. The Muslims of India can visit Delhi without any restrictions; but the Muslims of Pakistan also desire to visit the shrines of Hazrat Khawja Bakhtiar Kaki; Hazrat Nizamuddin Auliya; Khawja Baqi Ullah and Hazrat Amir Khusrau. A limited number of people journeys in groups to Delhi every year under government supervision, but the sacred character of cities such as Delhi, Ajmir, Kalya Sharif, Sirhind and Lucknow holds great attraction for large numbers of Pakistani Muslims. Unfortunately, relations between the two countries have never been so cordial as to allow the kind of easy travel across borders that exists between the United States and Canada. During the term of office of the Janata government, a pleasant atmosphere prevailed; but the leaders of this party quarreled among themselves and were thrown out of office. Mrs Gandhi regained power; and in spite of Pakistan's utmost efforts, relations between the two countries continued to be strained.

The new year brought fresh hopes and expectations; a fresh and pleasant breeze arose from the East. In the language of the Ganges valley, such welcome breezes are called "purva" or the cool breeze that blows from the East. Easterners call it "purvaiya" as well. The fresh breeze blowing from the East of Pakistan is bringing tidings of a new and pleasant period in relations between the two countries for which the people of Pakistan and India have been waiting for a long time. It would not be an exaggeration to say that since the achievement of freedom, that is over the last 37 years, this is the first time that a truly hope-inspiring message has come from Delhi. The occasion for this arose when the president of Pakistan sent a message of congratulations to Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on his outstanding victory. Although the message was formal, it included a sincere offer of cooperation. Mr Rajiv Gandhi could have sent a formal reply and laid it on his desk, as is the bureaucratic custom. We surmise, and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's reply bears us out, that he dictated the answer to President Zia's message of congratulations because the answer was free of dry protocol. It ran: "I assure you of my commitment to peaceful relations and cooperation with Pakistan and to a joint effort with you for peace and

stability in South Asia." This was the first breath of fresh air. After assuming the office of prime minister, he elaborated on the same subject in his first address to the nation over the radio and television. He said that India had historical and cultural relations with its closest neighbors and would like to strengthen these relations. He stated, "All of us have experienced British colonialism and know what slavery means. The security of South Asia lies in peace." This broadcast was the second breath of fresh air. Rajiv Gandhi then stated in an interview with the well-known U.S. weekly NEWSWEEK that he intended to meet again with President Zia.

The first meeting took place last November. The NEWSWEEK interview revealed that a telephone "hot line" had been established between Rajiv Gandhi and President Zia. Such a hot line between Islamabad and New Delhi is in itself an important step forward, it should be considered the third breath of fresh air.

It should be remembered that since Rajiv Gandhi's party won 401 seats in the Lok Sabha, he is in this respect India's most powerful prime minister to date. Winning 401 seats out of a total of 511 is a record parliamentary majority for any democratic country; it is an astonishing feat in a clean election, irrespective of the reason behind it. Chandra Shekhar, leader of the Janata Party, said after his defeat in the elections, "We lost the elections the day that Stawant Singh and Beant Singh assassinated Mrs Gandhi. The two bodyguards decreed our defeat." The fact is that no one can challenge Rajiv Gandhi either inside or outside the parliament; with such power at his command, he could have accelerated India's trend toward hegemony. But he not only refrained from doing so but conveyed the good tidings to his neighbors of "mutual respect, equal sovereignty and friendship." Earlier, India's neighbors complained that Indian authorities were in the habit of keeping their smaller neighbors under their thumb and would not be able to change their behavior. Upon assuming office, however, Rajiv Gandhi removed the basis for this complaint.

As for the fact that like his mother and grandfather before him, Rajiv Gandhi also has begun to object to Pakistan's receiving weapons, we should not forget that two records have been playing in India with great regularity: "Kashmir is an integral part of India" and "The supply of weapons to Pakistan has started an arms race in the region." The first record has been playing since 1950; the second started 4 years later, that is, in 1954, and has become even louder in the last 2 years. These records cannot be stopped suddenly. Given the new Indian prime minister's promising intentions, these records could be put in storage at any time. Rajiv Gandhi's love of peace and good neighbor policy could establish such an atmosphere of sincerity and tolerance between the two countries that not only would travel to Delhi, Ajmir, Sirhind and Kalyar Sharif become an ordinary occurrence, but even the problems of Kashmir and the presence of Russian troops in Afghanistan might be solved as well. If Rajiv Gandhi's grandfather, under the auspices of the World Bank, could sign an agreement with Ayub Khan regarding the allocation of the waters of the Indus River basin or canal water, why would it not be possible for Rajiv Gandhi to sign, under the UN auspices, an agreement solving the Kashmir problem? Just as the World Bank is an agency of the United Nations, the UN Commission for India and Pakistan was an agency created by the United Nations

and can be reactivated to allow Rajiv Gandhi to bridge the gulf between India and Pakistan caused by the Kashmir problem. After all, Britain has solved the Hong Kong problem. Britain had no recourse against China; but China acted with nobility and generosity and the issue was settled.

India can show generosity by reopening talks on Kashmir. If this problem is solved, Indo-Pakistani relations would enter a golden phase. The huge sums spent on the military by both sides could be spent on improving conditions for the people; agriculture and industry would improve; education would receive adequate funding; travel between the two countries would promote mutual friendship; visa requirements could be ended; a free exchange of journals, books and newspapers could be allowed; and literary and cultural relations would improve. In short, the solution of one problem would remove a thousand obstacles. Rajiv Gandhi has assured his country's minorities of security. He should take note of the fact that Muslims constitute 12 or 13 percent of the population and are second in number to the Hindus. If friendship and cooperation are established between India and Pakistan, India's 80 or 100 million Muslims would become the strongest pillars of support for the government. The Muslims also played an important part in giving Rajiv Gandhi the largest majority in the Lok Sabha. In 1980, the Muslims believed in Mrs Gandhi's election promises and helped her win the elections. But after assuming office, she forgot the promises she had made to the Muslims. Rajiv Gandhi is expected to keep in mind the feelings of the Muslim citizens. If he were to look deep into the hearts of Indian Muslims, he would find that they also would feel secure if a just solution is found for the Kashmir issue, because they are always threatened by the danger that as long as the Kashmir issue remains unsettled, war could break out; and when war breaks out between India and Pakistan, it is the innocent Indian Muslims who suffer.

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PAKISTAN

OBJECTIVE PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL URGED FOR MUNICIPAL COUNCILS

Lahore NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 12 Jan 85 p 5

/Editorial: "Municipal Institutions: Mere Praise Is Not Enough"

/Text/ In a ceremony held to award diplomas to the chairmen of district councils and chief officials of municipal organizations who had completed a training course, Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, federal minister of local government and rural development, said that municipal institutions had made good progress with local development programs especially in rural areas; in view of their performance, the government was studying the possibility of widening their power. After a suspension lasting 10 years, the municipal system was restored in September 1979 and municipal elections were held for the second time in September 1983. Plans to develop this system of autonomous government on strong foundations is a positive step; but one can also say without fear of contradiction that the hopes for reform and progress in cultural services that were raised by the election to office in these organizations of the representatives of the people have not been fulfilled over the last 5½ years. What is really needed is that the causes of this situation be studied in an unrestricted manner and positive steps taken to remedy the shortcomings.

It is true that when elections for these offices are held regularly the people will judge their representatives on the basis of their performance. This may be a gradual and slow procedure for reform, but there is no substitute for it. It is also important in this connection that the custom of applauding municipal organizations, which has become common because of the absence of true representative institutions (parliament and provincial assemblies), should be ended. Instead, people's representatives in municipal offices should be reminded of their true responsibilities, namely, cultural service to the people. Their commendation on a high official level aside, it is necessary to examine the rate of the progress that is being praised to loudly. In the last 5½ years, what has been the level of improvement in general conditions in cities and how many more facilities have been provided for rural areas compared with the period before September 1979? The more this aspect of performance is emphasized, the more the people will truly benefit and the greater will be their appreciation for municipal institutions.

PAKISTAN

DETENTION TERMS OF LEADERS EXTENDED

GF100825 Lahore JANG in Urdu 5 Mar 85 pp 1, 4

[Text] Peshawar, (JANG correspondent)--The provincial government here has extended the detention by 2 months of Abdul Wali Khan, the head of the National Democratic Party (NDP); Begam Naseem Wali Khan of NDP; Abudl Khaliq Khan, the central general secretary of the NDP; Alhaj Ghulam Ahmad Bilor, central vice president of the provincial NDP; Mohammad Afzal Khan, Haji Mohammad Adir, Farid Tufan, Kamran Khan members; Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao, head of the provincial branch of the Pakistan Peoples Party [PPP]; Nasirullah Khan Babar former governor of the Northwest Frontier Province [NWFP] and prominent PPP leader and Seyyed Munis Shah, the provincial head of the defunct Tehrik-i-Istiqal party.

These leaders were arrested during the first 10 days of February and were to have remained in detention for 1 month. Out of these arrested leaders, Alhaj Ghulam Ahmad Bilor, Haji Mohammad Adil, Farid Tufan and Seyyed Munir Shah are in Peshawar Jail, while Aftab Ahmad Khan Sherpao and Nasirullah Khan Babar are being kept at the Tanda Dam Resthouse in Khohat District. Abdul Wali Khan and his wife Begam Naseem Wali Khan are being detained at their respective residences.

According to a report from the JANG correspondent in Karachi, the government has extended by 90 days the detention period of the leaders of Jamiatul-Ulema-i-Pakistan [JUP] and some MRD leaders. Yesterday Maulana Noorani (of JUP), Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi and Sardar Sherbaz Mazari [of MRD] along with Khwaja Khairuddin were served notices by the Sind Provincial Government extending their detention by another 90 days. These named were arrested on 18 February and were detained at their respective residences for a period of 15 days.

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PAKISTAN

PROF GHAFOOR'S INDEFINITE LEAVE FROM JAMAAT-E ISLAMI DISCUSSED

Karachi JANG in Urdu 23 Jan 85 p 5

/Column "Gireban" by Mannoo Bhai/

/Excerpts/ The well-known and famous former secretary general of /Pakistan/ National Alliance, an extremely important character in the historymaking negotiations at Sihala and deputy chairman of Jamaat-e Islami, Prof Ghafoor Ahmed, is these days the focus of many a rumor. The hottest rumor is that he has severed his connections with the Jamaat-e Islami or that he has resigned from the deputy chairmanship of the party. These rumors originated last November when, after the announcement of the referendum, the party held its meeting to explain its stand on the issue and Prof Ghafoor left the meeting. His departure from the meeting was interpreted in certain circles as a walkout, and some described it as his parting of the ways from the Jamaat. On the other hand, the chairman of the Jamaat stated that Prof Ghafoor had left after getting permission, on grounds of ill health. He also said that he did not know what ailment Prof Ghafoor suffered from to make him collapse suddenly while walking.

Those who have no knowledge or experience of this illness continued to insist that it is a political illness and that the Jamaat is embroiled in a crisis of leadership. But in an interview with the weekly MEG, Prof Ghafoor said that there was no truth in the reports that his membership in Jamaat-e Islami has either been ended or suspended. In fact, he has taken leave from the party for an indefinite period. In other words, he is on indefinite leave from the deputy chairmanship of Jamaat-e Islami.

In a way, ever since political parties were banned and political activity restricted, all political bodies and parties have been on compulsory leave. But Jamaat-e Islami and the Muslim League (Pagara group) have been giving evidence of their activities as banned parties. Their meetings are held and elections also take place. But among the leaders of these parties there was no tradition of going on leave and this tradition Prof Gahfoor has set by going on leave, and for an indefinite period at that!

On principle, whenever any person leaves his duties, and especially when he leaves for a specific or an indefinite period, his duties are assigned to another person temporarily, or for a specific or an indefinite period, and that person officiates in the absence of the person going on leave. There has

been no announcement from Jamaat-e Islami as to who has been or will be officiating as deputy chairman of the party in place of Prof Ghafoor, who is on indefinite leave.

In the absence of any such announcement, it can be concluded that either Prof Ghafoor Ahmed's leave for an indefinite period has not been granted or that in his capacity as deputy chairman he had no work to do that will have to be assigned to someone else. In other words, whether he goes on leave or does not go on leave is of little consequence to the party.

In his interview, Prof Ghafoor said that he has let Jamaat-e Islami know that he should not be selected as a candidate in the February nonparty elections. But since he is a member of the party, he will abide by the party's plan of action and will take part in the elections as an ordinary member of the Jamaat. He also said that membership in the assembly is not the only way to serve the public.

Circles close to Prof Sahib have advised him to formally announce his severance of its with Jamaat-e Islami.

From such remarks by circles close to Prof Ghafoor, it appears that they regard leave for an indefinite period as an informal announcement of his breaking off from the Jamaat. Others believe that Prof Ghafoor will not adopt this course but instead keep his options open. Whatever he does will be according to his wishes and his political understanding. But one result of his going on indefinite leave is that some officials will be able to go on leave. That is, they will not be fired but will be allowed to go on leave instead. Some will go on compulsory leave and others will obtain leave until things take a turn for the better. Some will get leave until the crops ripen, some until the harvest is done and others will use any excuse to go on leave.

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